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Love Stories for Children *

C. F. Switzer, Principal of the Junior high school, Grand Rapids, Mich.

It seems to me it is impossible to over-emphasize the potential influence of the reading done by girls and boys outside the school room. The school day, five to six hours long, is full of student's activity, and although the daily program of the pupil is more varied since the introduction of manual training, music, art, etc., the curriculum is still academic in emphasis. Under this daily routine of work, the growing boy or girl becomes tired in mind and body. He desires a change of physical and mental activity and wants to meet other people who tell of their experiences, their hopes and their disappointments. He wants to give full play to a very active imagination and the new creatures that are so easily entertained there. He wants to lose himself in new sensations and impersonate the spirit of some hero or heroine and in fancy, bring the world to his feet. The emotional side of his nature, dormant for the most part under intellectual stress of school life, desires to indulge itself, to become aroused and kindle the fires of his soul. He admires and dislikes; he loves and he hates; he is sad and he knows joy; he is proud and he is ashamed; and he becomes conscious of new and conflicting moral judgments. All these emotions and others, make him a restive young animal, scarcely understanding himself. He needs guidance, encouragement and abundant activity. This state of mind and body is not a strange or freakish thing as many par-

ents and some teachers seem to think, but is natural and logical, and must be so recognized by parents and teachers alike.

I think that we will agree that boys and girls like stories and this large class of reading appears to satisfy their natural craving for ideas of life and action. They are interested in stories and much can be done for them through the story medium. Granted that the mission of the story for children is to form judgments, create ideals and satisfy their emotional craving. The question before us for consideration is shall we include love stories in children's reading? If, by a love story, we mean a story in which love is the evident and dominant theme: a story in which there is love making; a passionate appeal on the part of the lover that he must have his heart's desire to the utter sacrifice of everything else; a story that appeals to sensuality for its power and attraction; without any hesitation, I would say no. I would condemn such stories for children on the evidence of psychology, in that the subconscious mind, entertaining these new ideas, easily suggests them to the conscious self as within the realm of possibility for the individual where they become real and oft times rich in attractiveness. I would also condemn such stories for children on the evidence of physiology which teaches us to develop the body in beauty and symmetry and not over-emphasize any physical function which erotic love always does. And finally, I would emphatically condemn this class of stories from the point of view of theology which teaches us that the perfect man is a high minded creature, obedient to the will of God to whom is subject the mind of man and the mortal body.

*Discussion at the joint meeting, May, 1916, on the subject of children's reading, held annually at Grand Rapids, Mich.

On the other hand, there is a class of love stories in which the action is enlivened by the appealing interest of real affection; stories in which love spells sacrifice, privation and years of patient waiting for its fulfilment. The hero is a real man and the heroine is a womanly woman, both of whom are admired for their purity of character, the simplicity, modesty and sweetness of their love and the naturalness of their action in the plot. I believe in such stories on the ground of their wholesomeness, their trueness to life, and the lessons they teach. But it is a question whether this type of story actually meets the needs of immature children.

For the purpose of this paper, I shall confine myself to a discussion of the latter type of love story and will attempt to examine the question briefly from three points of view.

1. Do growing boys and girls like love stories?

2. Are love stories suitable for boys and girls from the standpoint of physiology?

3. Do love stories have a beneficial effect upon the mental development of the child?

Some very interesting studies have been made of the kind of reading boys and girls like. R. W. Bullock reported to the National Education Society a few years ago, that out of 2,000 returns of children's reading from the third to the twelfth grades, it appeared that War stories were most popular with boys of the third to the eighth grades inclusive. Stories of adventure are popular through the eighth grade; that the "tender sentiment" does not interest the average grade boy and not until after the beginning of the adolescent period, does he appear to become addicted to reading love stories of any kind. Stories of adventure are popular with girls in the sixth grade as are also stories of travel. The taste for love stories increases rapidly toward the close of the high school course. He reports that the maximum of reading done by both boys and girls is between the sixth and eighth grade, or from twelve to fourteen years of age. Mr. Bullock

recommends that when 95% of the boys prefer stories of adventure and 75% of the girls prefer love stories, teachers or librarians should provide the right kind of stories for both boys and girls.

J. Carleton Bell and Itasca B. Sweet of the University of Texas made a study of reading of high school pupils entitled A study of reading of high school pupils which was reported in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, January, 1916. There were 440 pupils—165 boys and 275 girls of the Austin high school, Texas, studied. The investigators gave the following conclusions:

1. With high school girls, light fiction forms the largest part of voluntary reading.

2. With boys, books of adventure take the place held by light fiction with girls.

In order to satisfy myself on some of the points involved, I determined to make a study of the reading of the pupils in my own school. The total number of students examined, grades six to nine, was 707.

The pupils were asked the following questions:

1. Give your name, grade and age.
2. What kind of reading do you like best?
3. How much reading have you done since the last school year? Estimate as closely as possible.

When classified, the results were as follows:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Love stories | 9 |
| Fiction and novels | 36 |
| Adventure—exciting pioneer—Indian | 326 |
| Sports—outdoor life | 48 |
| Historical—scientific | 48 |
| Detective—mystery | 36 |
| Humorous | 3 |
| Boarding school girl's stories | 97 |
| Miscellaneous | 138 |

Under the title "miscellaneous" were classified such replies as heavy reading, stories without morals, any kind of stories, stories of occupations, etc. A most interesting class of replies of wide variation came under this title.

In this study it will be noticed that only 1.2% actually reported that their favorite reading was love stories while only 5.1% liked fiction or novels best. Combining titles, adventure, exciting pioneer, Indian, sports, outdoor life,

historical, scientific, mystery and detective, as one title, it would include the favorite reading of 458 pupils or 64.7% of the total; combining titles, love stories, novels and fiction, it shows that only 6.3% of the pupils preferred this class of reading. It has occurred to me since making this study that I might have gotten a more accurate report as far as the girls were concerned at least, if I had not asked them to give their names, for I am pretty sure there are more than nine girls in my school who spend many of their evenings reading a perfectly thrilling love tale. A total of 13,630 books had been read and 472 pupils have library cards.

The overwhelming evidence presented by these studies on the reading of 10,136 pupils of all ages and in all grades in different parts of the country is entirely sufficient in my estimation to justify the following conclusions:

First: The reading tastes of boys and girls are widely different.

Second: Boys do not care for and will not ask for love stories if the right kind of good thrilling stories of adventure, history, biography, mystery and outdoor sports are provided.

Third: Girls prefer fiction that has a strong element of love.

I do not wish to be misunderstood at this point and have you believe that boys do not read love stories. I am willing, however, to stand by the proposition that the favorite reading of boys is not of the type in which the love interest is strong and that if boys are provided with the kind of stories they like, they will not ask for love stories at all. The question of "love stories for children," is really one of "love stories for girls."

Physiology teaches us that what the pre-adolescent needs more than anything else is muscular development. He is a young savage and wants to play to the limit of his time and strength. He does not know much about reasoning, morality, religion, sympathy or aesthetics. Adolescence is a new period life in which the muscles and bones grow rapidly and heavy

demands are made upon the energies and resources of the growing boy and girl. The boy is becoming a man and the girl a woman and although mental development is not arrested, it is largely a period of physical fruition. From the standpoint of physiology, it seems to me that it would be unwise to introduce much reading of a type which stimulates the same physical functions that are in process of growth and development. Just as we measure the calories of food that we take into our bodies, so Mother Nature measures the units of life that go out. Love stories arouse the deepest emotions and lassitude and even exhaustion often follows the reading of a strong love story. Indulgence in this kind of reading by children means loss of strength that often results in sleeplessness, nervousness, impatience and irritability. These symptoms indicate a sapping of the physical resources of the individual which, in the case of the child, comes at the very time of his whole life when he can least afford to stand the strain.

If girls and boys desire more knowledge of life at this period by reading, let there be a wise selection of stories in which the love element is not given a free rein by the word play of an enthusiastic novelist whose sole aim is to produce a "best seller" for a morbid public. If it is possible to stem the tide of indulged emotionalism of youth during the adolescent period, it will pay big dividends later in life by full physical development which shows itself so splendidly in a wonderful supply of reserve power. At this point, I wish to re-emphasize the fact that motor education is preeminent in young life and all other things should be contributory. If they, meaning love stories, result in late reading, erotic dreams, etc., and thereby interfere with the free physical development of girls and boys, as I believe they do, they are not worth the time and energy they absorb.

Young life should have more outdoor exercise along the line of boy and girl scout activity, aesthetic dancing, in the open air, tennis, skating, snow-

shoeing, skiing, boating, swimming and kindred sports. After coming from the school room, it behooves parents not to allow their children to sit down immediately after school and devour a book. Parents should insist upon exercise in the open air until the dinner hour. After the evening meal, when Mary shall have helped Mother at the household duties and Johnnie shall have mowed the lawn or tended the furnace, or any other invented duties intended to teach home responsibilities, shall have been done, then some carefully supervised reading of a good kind may be brought forth. But not for Mary or Johnnie alone, but for the whole family. They are to read aloud the select portions that are especially interesting. Behold, the happiest hour of the family circle has arrived and one that will impress its beautiful significance upon the mind of that boy or girl in after years.

From the standpoint of psychology, I do not think love stories should be used to any extended degree. Again I must remind you that love stories appeal fundamentally to the emotions and the science of the mind teaches that emotions are absolutely subjective both as to origin and operation. They are opposed to the rational and intellectual and cannot be directed and used as the intellect can. Rather, they, the emotions, master us. Thorndyke says that under the stress of strong emotion, "one is the emotion," that is, he has lost his identity as a human being and becomes an irrational emotion or feeling. To sum up this point, it seems logical that no one set of emotions should be called into play too strongly or too often. I can imagine nothing else from a girl who develops an overwhelming desire for love stories than that she should find herself in love before the right man arrives. Such a condition might easily lead to a disastrous ending.

In presenting our professional ideas on the subject, from the teaching side, we feel that the outside reading of our pupils, while contributing to the va-

riety of their own needs, should be complimentary to the work of the school. Our system of vocational guidance is dependent for its effectiveness upon the systematic and thorough reading of our pupils along specified lines. Biography with all its inspiration by the power of example has tremendous possibilities for the youth of both sexes. Stories of industry and salesmanship that are appearing in our magazines should exert more and more influence, which is especially true in view of the fact that we are facing a period of intensive industrial development. Our boys and girls must use their spare moments in order to prepare themselves for the work which is before them. We have about 12,000,000 untrained mechanics in wood, iron, and allied industries in this country today, and over 10,000,000 untrained men in agriculture. God alone knows how many untrained wives and mothers there are in houses called homes. We will grant that the public schools are not doing what they should to remedy this condition. The point I am trying to make, however, is this: the next generation of boys and girls in this country must give more time to self improvement and less time to idle reading if the vigor of our manhood and womanhood and the commercial supremacy of our country is to be maintained. The school cannot assume the whole burden of the solution, but it believes that it does see the problem and is willing to state it.

In the last place, I think that the educational interests of the boys and girls demand that the stories that they read should teach them something. They should be entertaining, of course, but the desire to be entertained is the curse of the American people. They should teach boys to be manly, brave, truthful, to hate the wrong and love the good. They should teach girls to be sympathetic, to honor real achievement, to be sincere and helpful and to abhor snobbishness and superficiality. It may be that there are some love stories that emphasize these points. I do know that

a good many stories give so much attention to the successful nursing of tender sentiment that space upon the printed page does not allow sufficient opportunity to impress these lessons upon the plastic young minds of boys and girls.

In conclusion, may I be allowed to summarize what I have tried to show:

- 1) That love stories are demanded by a very small percentage of boys. The obvious reason would seem that they are not liked.
- 2) That physiology, psychology and pedagogy tend to show that they are not worth the time they demand.
- 3) That the perfect development of youth is better met by other types of reading.

Mrs Charles Holden (A mother)

"Novels are sweets. All people with healthy literary appetites love them," says Thackeray. If novels are the sweets, love stories are the chocolate chips of literature. Although chocolate chips would make babies sick, a child of seven or eight would not suffer from eating a few, and older children could eat more without disaster. The reading of love stories like the eating of candy must be tempered with judgment. No one can read love stories to the exclusion of all other forms of literature without suffering mental deterioration.

In the last few years there has been a marked change in the attitude of people toward fiction. In our home library we have a quaint old book which belonged to our children's great grandmother. She was a New England woman who taught her children that novel reading was wicked. This old book, called *No Fiction*, she read often. In everything but name this book is a novel, though somewhat religious. Such a book was the result of the early Puritan attitude toward the novel. That attitude reflected Puritan times, and was felt when we were children. There still remains parents who do not permit the reading of fiction especially in the form of the love story.

There are several kinds of stories

that portray love. Love for animals, birds and beasts, love of friends, love of country and home, love of brother and sisters may all be portrayed in a story. As we commonly use the expression, it means the love of the sexes put into the form of a story.

There are good and bad love stories. The so-called "problem" story with its analysis of unhappy marriage and divorce is not suitable for children to read. Such stories are unwholesome "sweets" and should be avoided. We should obliterate soul problems from stories for children, for the mind of the child is not ready for these and they can only be harmful.

Boys, for the most part, are not interested in love stories. Their interest is best aroused and their imagination kindled by stories of campfire, travel and adventure. Dickens is popular with many boys. His novels represent love in a wholesome fashion which stimulates high ideals and promotes the development of manly virtues. Some mothers read Dickens to their boys before they can read for themselves. The idea is prevalent that unless Dickens is read before the fifteenth year he will not be read later.

Girls generally enjoy reading love stories. Formerly there were no novels written for girls. Now-a-days there are quantities of good ones. Consequently, Mary Jane Holmes and Mrs Southworth are not as popular as they were thirty years ago. A good many silly stories are written now-a-days and occasionally there is a girl who conceals them under her desk at school, but such cases we are told are less common than formerly.

The first name on the average list of girl's books is Miss Alcott's "Little women." Two years ago the play taken from *Little women* was staged at Powers theatre. After seeing the play, my eleven year old daughter read the book and I re-read it. At thirteen, I had first read *Little women* and upon the second reading was surprised that there was so much "love" in the story. Elizabeth seemed delighted with the

simple home life of Jo, Beth, Meg and Amy but thought little concerning the lovers in the story. The love scenes seemed to roll off her mind as they had off mine, like an April shower off an umbrella. Considering this, would it not be well for children to read Dickens, Scott, Miss Alcott and the books of other recommended writers such as the mind of the child can comprehend, before the adolescent period arrives? Children's minds do not develop systematically and the individual needs of each child should be considered.

Some of the love stories in the magazines are atrocious. Unless teachers can suggest as substitutes for the stories of the *Red Book*, the *Blue Book* and the *Police Gazette* something easier to understand than Emerson's "American Scholar," Prescott's "Conquest of Peru" and Ruskin's essay on "Work," children will read what is accessible at home instead of going to the public library for the better book. While the classics charm and uplift some children, others find them a desert of desolation. There are a great many books which children may read and enjoy that are not on the required lists. Some teachers have these lists for their pupils to use in school, but after school days are over the child is left to shift for himself. Unless he has become familiar with the use of the library he is at loss to know what to read.

Our children's librarian does much to help the children in choosing books. She also aims to reach the homes through the Parent's Councils that are organized in all our city schools. Once a year, Miss Quigley visits the mothers at these meetings and talks with them concerning the books that the children should read.

The library staff sends to each boy and girl who finish the eighth grade a request to continue the use of the library. Upon finding out what subject most interests the individual child and will be most help to him in getting a livelihood a list of books upon that subject is sent for him to read.

This leaves another class of chil-

dren without help. Quite a number of children do not reach the eighth grade. If the Library Commissioners and the Board of Education jointly would issue a pamphlet containing the names of the desirable story books, and put a copy into the hands of every child in the public school, children would read a better class of books. The lists of children's books provided for the *Library Bulletin* might be utilized. These could be supplemented by English teachers and others. A list of this kind should be given the child as early as the fifth grade and he should be taught to use it. In this way those who leave school as soon as the law permits will take with him suggestions to utilize in his future reading. When one gets the habit of reading good books, vicious or trashy books cease to attract.

Even with the care in the selection of books which is exercised by our library censors, the mother must see to it that the children are not reading books that will establish ideals that are contrary to her own. If a mother maintains that a work is degrading, she must not permit her son or daughter to read books that glorify "the daily round, the constant task." On the other hand, if a mother hopes that her son or daughter may see work as the greatest character builder, and the greatest means of happiness in the world, she will see to it that her child reads the story that glorifies work. If a mother puts money and position ahead of brain and worth, her daughter must read only books that represent money and position as the greatest good in life. If the mother feels that character and kindness, brain and brawn are more to be desired than riches, let her be careful that her daughter reads books which emphasize her mother's ideals.

Books taken from rental collections must be carefully investigated. People who operate these exchanges may buy only the best books, but, on the other hand, the owner may not be an expert librarian and the books may be mediocre if not vicious. If parents have these exchange books in their

homes they should be sure that no book is brought into the house which the children may not read with benefit.

The danger from the borrowed book is obvious. Every book of this sort should be carefully censored.

If children are to read love stories let us be sure that they are read at the right time. Before the adolescent period, is suggested as a better time to read love stories than when "newly awakened desires proclaim that the time for romance has arrived." We must be sure that the love stories our children read are not trashy, sentimental nonsense, but wholesome "sweets" that emphasize the joys of home and inculcate the domestic virtues. We ought to be sure that the minds of our boys and girls grow in the same proportion that their bodies grow. "Jack and the beanstalk" is nonsense to a child of ten. It would be well if all children might outgrow Alice in Wonderland before they grow up. Make the literary food suitable for the child's age then we will not have so many men and women who read trash.

The reading of love stories of the right sort, at the right time, in the right proportion, and in the right spirit will not harm a normal child.

Belle M. McCormick, Grand Rapids News

I believe children should be provided with love stories in order to gratify the natural craving for romance in the emotional child and to stimulate romance in the phlegmatic child.

I base my argument on the conviction that the craving for romance in the child is a natural one, that it manifests itself as early as the age of five or six years and that it is something to be encouraged, rather than discouraged.

My conclusions are formed from the observation of other children and from the experience of my own childish emotions which are still very vivid.

The first knowledge that a child gains in this world is the knowledge of home life. He opens his eyes in an institution founded upon romance. He, himself, is its very offspring. Romance

is the foundation of his very shelter.

Is it then anything but natural that he should begin to think about it as soon as he is capable of thinking about anything?

Put a child in a convent, divorce his early life from all manifestations of the man and woman relation, and you might be able to direct his thoughts into other than romantic channels, but put him in an institution founded upon love and you cannot accomplish it.

The very surroundings of a child's early life are conducive to thoughts of romance.

Even the child in the convent, we learn, with the awakening of youth, has this mysterious bewildering longing for romantic adventure in his soul. What, then, of the child whose life is surrounded with it?

My meager knowledge on the subject of children's literature itself would prevent me from making any specific suggestions regarding the kind or class of love stories to be put into the hands of children. Any suggestions of such a nature would be presumptions on my part.

But I believe that any wholesome love story is good for a child. The library I had access to when I was young was filled for the most part with literature which no child could digest. I spent most of my time pouring over books like Dickens' "Pickwick papers." I remember getting hold of "The scarlet letter." I read it, but the dangerous parts I did not comprehend, so I am sure they did me no damage. What a child does not understand usually does him no harm. It was so, at any rate, with the few love stories I found which were too old for me.

The story which did make an impression, however, was *St. Elmo*. From this novel it was impressed upon my formative mind that love was something higher than infatuation and that it depended for happiness upon the foundation of respect. My elders would have thought there was time enough to think about that when I grew up. But children do not consult their parents

about what they shall think about, and St. Elmo served a good purpose in the life of one child.

But what seems to me the most significant experience of my childhood reading was the period when from a girl in the neighborhood I obtained my first yellow covered novel. More of the variety came into my possession in such rapid succession that I do not even remember what they were. But I believe most of them were written by Bertha M. Clay and Mary J. Holmes.

These novels, trashy as they were, I am convinced filled a most important need. They played an important part in my mental development and came as a life saver at the psychological moment. Many a night I secretly burned the midnight oil reading them. They satisfied a terrific craving for romance. Dangerous as they were, they were better than nothing. And although they no doubt cheapened my literary taste, I do not believe they had a bad moral effect, because virtue was always rewarded, and the heroine always won her rightful happiness and the villain was always punished for his sins.

None of us would hesitate to take a yellow covered novel out of the hands of any child who came under our influence, yet in my particular case I know they were a necessary evil. And I feel strongly that with some children trashy love stories are far better than no love stories at all.

I believe that love stories are good for the phlegmatic child because they help to develop the romantic viewpoint which enables most of us to color with rosy hues the drab spots of life and to clothe the commonplace with the picturesque.

For the emotional child I believe they are a necessary mental food.

For the child whose romantic imagination is not fed will seek sordid realities.

For my part, I find the world is good. It is a most reliable paymaster, whichever way you make your investment, and I am glad to be in it.—*Wilfred T. Grenfell.*

A Plea for Fairer Support

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The work of the Immigrant Publication Society is not receiving the support it deserves from American libraries. The Society proceeds upon the idea that work with the foreign-born, to be effective, must have the active interest and help, and be subject to the constant criticism and suggestion of men and women who have themselves been immigrants and who therefore have first-hand knowledge of the conditions. The Society has published a series of books, every one of which has been thoroughly tested. Librarians who have used the books have endorsed them with enthusiasm.

The Society's first book was "The Immigrants' guide," simply presented in the newcomer's own language, to give the reader chiefly those things which he himself realizes he needs to know of the new land. Public libraries, serving large foreign populations, report that this book is being "read to pieces." There are instances of immigrants who have committed the entire book to memory.

The second publication of the Society was the "Foreigners' guide to English." One of our New York branches owns six copies, which it reports "always out."

"Makers of America," for use as a second or third book in English, clearly written and yet intended to attract the interest of the intelligent adult, has been useful not only to the foreign-born, but also to our native Americans. The "Makers," whose stories are told in this book, are Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln.

The interest of public libraries was further challenged by the publication of "Immigrant and library: Italian helps," which gives exactly the information required by librarians who wish to work effectively with Italians. This book was issued in coöperation with the Publishing Board of the A. L. A., and led to many demands from libraries for similar books, not merely in Yiddish and Hebrew (now in preparation), but in many other languages.

A field of large national service is now opening before the Society, for it is putting into the hands of librarians serviceable manuals for the very work in which they are so much interested. The time of experiment is over. The work is now a proved success. Other books are insistently called for, and a number of them are in preparation. For example, there are a Guide to citizenship, a History of the United States in Polish and Italian, a simple book on agriculture, and several others. Among the others are preliminary and supplemental lists of books in foreign languages, and an ambitious and more scholarly project of an annual publication of an English annotated list of the best books published each year in a dozen of the more important languages.

The Director of the Society, Mr. John Foster Carr, is now so widely known among librarians that his office is overwhelmed with letters from every part of the country, asking for many kinds of advice in this new work with the foreign-born. Thus there is being built up a dependable bureau of information and advice, the facilities of which should be still better known. But here comes in the difficulty. It is the intention that only expert advice shall be given. This requires work often involving expense far beyond mere office charges. The bibliographies cannot hope to repay even the expense of printing; but the work has been continuing, not only without remuneration to Mr. Carr, but with a large deficit, which in great part he has met personally. This is not as it should be. If the libraries follow their own interests and place liberal orders for the Society's publications, it would soon be self-supporting.

The Society is not a commercial venture; it is a membership corporation, organized under a charter from the state of New York. The work needs support for its rapid and efficient extension. Librarians should not merely know more about the opportunities and help which the Society offers, but they should themselves give that help which will make the prompt development of

the work possible. There is a new and widespread interest in the undertaking. Following Mr Carr's address at Asbury Park last summer he has received innumerable lecture engagements and invitations from many parts of the country, either directly from librarians or upon their suggestion.

All the books published so far are very moderate in price. A careful trial of them will prove their value; and all of them except the bibliographies pay a profit that is a direct support to the enterprise. I am convinced that if librarians buy these little books as freely as their interests require, the publications would soon pay for themselves, and enable Mr Carr and his organization to proceed with the issue of others for which librarians are clamoring. We have found all the books of great use in the work with foreign populations in New York, and we have ordered them in large quantities in the past, and expect to continue to do so in the future. Will not other librarians do likewise, in accordance with their needs, so that this very important work may be continued and encouraged?

E. H. ANDERSON.

January 18, 1917.

Inconsistencies

May I tell in PUBLIC LIBRARIES what I saw illustrated the other day?

The librarian usually belongs to the Civic League.

She is eager to find material for the club woman who is writing a paper on the overworked shop girl. She is enthusiastic in her support of the cause of the girl in the factory. All of which is well and good. BUT, she will make her own assistants stand at a loan desk a whole afternoon when she might just as well provide a stool for them—she keeps her assistants at the loan desk for a stretch of hours that the average shop girl does not know.

Some day industrial commissions are going to investigate these things. What gross violations of the labor laws—and of common humanity will the commission find in—what library?

TRAVELER.

Volunteers for Classification Making

The Decimal classification advisory committee of the American Library Association has completed its canvass of American libraries using the decimal classification.

The committee now knows the popular needs that the D. C. is asked to fill and proposes to act immediately in accordance with these demands.

For quick and sure results we must have the active help of many library workers.

The Committee herewith calls all who will help, under instruction, in this work of classification-making, whether experienced or inexperienced, to correspond immediately with its secretary.

A. LAW VOGEL.

Mechanics Institute, San Francisco, Cal.

For Free Distribution

A quantity, not a large one, of the reports of the International Congress of Women, held at The Hague in April-May, 1915, are for free distribution among public and college libraries in the United States and Canada on application to the Woman's Peace Party Headquarters, 116 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Miss Jane Addams, chairman, is particularly anxious that every library, not already supplied, shall secure a copy of these proceedings in order to have preserved the true history of that epoch-making occasion when 1,500 women from 12 nations met in the interest of permanent peace. The proceedings are printed in three languages, English, French and German and are illustrated by pictures of groups and individuals prominent in the work of the Congress. Every library will have need for a copy in years to come if not at the present time.

Save the Dunes

The Chicago public library has on one of its upper halls a very inclusive and beautiful exhibit of colored photographs, postals and other pictures of the dune country in northern Indiana. This locality contains a greater va-

riety of vegetation than any other locality known to the scientists—botanists, geologists and biologists, generally.

From all over the country and from the friends of our native landscape of the region, many people are trying to induce the Government to set aside this wonderfully beautiful tract for a national park. The opposition which is being made comes from the steel corporations which desire to use this locality for their mills on account of the inland region and the lake transportation. A large share of a similar tract was taken by the interests that founded Gary and many of these are interested in extending their plants the remaining 18 miles on the lake shore. The matter is shortly to come up in Congress and deserves the support of everyone who desires to create and maintain an interest in the out-of-door life among all people.

There is not a national park in the great Middle-west and while the visitors to the Dunes, now, are largely scholars, students and pupils of the public schools, the number of those who, at a small cost, are visiting them for recreation and for the enjoyment of the variety of vegetation and the beautiful landscape is continually increasing so that it is almost impossible to think that such a beautiful stretch of country, unlike anything else in the world, should be wiped out for commercial interests, that could, with a little more expenditure, be just as well placed in another locality.

Librarians of the entire Middle west are asked especially, to interest themselves in the matter and to help in any way possible to save the dune country.

A letter to one's senators and representatives in Congress will be a great help.

NATURE LOVER.

A Suggestion

The *Western Teacher* in its November issue reproduced a letter written by a superintendent of schools a few weeks before he started for the meet-

ing of the Department of superintendence at Detroit. He sent a copy of the following letter to each of the eighth-grade rooms:

To the Eighth Grade:

I am planning a trip to Detroit. To what books can you refer me, giving information concerning Detroit? Please state the page in each and the important points covered.

What institutions should I visit? What industries should I see? Is it merely by chance that these industries have been located at Detroit?

How shall I go to Detroit? What will be the advantages of the route which you suggest? What will be the character of the country through which I pass and how can I arrange my traveling so as to see much of it? What are the important industries along this route and what cities are centers of each?

An early reply will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Oxygen for Libraries

Mr. Andrew Carnegie says:

When I was a working boy in Pittsburgh, Colonel Anderson, of Allegheny, opened to boys his little library of four hundred books. Every Saturday afternoon he was in attendance at his house to exchange books. No one but he who has felt it can ever know the intense longing with which the arrival of Saturday was awaited. When reveling in the treasures which he opened to us I resolved, if ever wealth came to me, that it should be used to establish free libraries, so that other poor boys might receive opportunities similar to those for which we were indebted to that noble man.

How effectively the resolution has been carried out every American knows. There is hardly a citizen of the United States who has not at some time or other made use of a Carnegie library building, whether constantly in his own town, or just to kill time pleasantly between trains in some place far distant.

All of them have one fault which dims their many virtues. Libraries built by other people share it. Churches and public gatherings of all sorts are nearly as bad.

They are full of stale, foul air, disease-breeding, headache-creating.

Go into any library in this broad land—the situation is the same. Why people who are presumably desirous of being intellectually stimulated will put up with the mind-dulling, sickening closeness is a mystery. But they do.

We commend to Mr. Carnegie a clause requiring that ventilation be included in the care of his library buildings. It might help a little!—E. Liverpool (O.) *Review*.

Will They Consent to Do This?

I have been much interested in reading in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, the many interesting suggestions which come from librarians who are dominated in many instances by large systems. This encourages me to ask you, if you cannot induce the large libraries to give statistics showing how many employees had left, through ill-health, in, say, ten years, with special honor to the one who has lost the least. It might be a revelation as to efficiency, it might be a revelation as to some of the things that go on in large libraries that are not always put in the printed report. Of course statistics are queer things!

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.

Do They Count?

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

A question has arisen on which I would like to have some help from PUBLIC LIBRARIES. How shall the poems, of which libraries have many copies mounted for circulation, be counted in the records of circulation? We typed copies of the Christmas poems which the children used for pieces to "speak" in their school exercises. Are we justified in counting them as mounted literature in our circulation?

FLORA B. ROBERTS,
Pottsville, Pa. Public Library.

Useless Reference Work

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I was interested in your editorial on courtesy which appeared in the January number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, and it leads me to offer this account of an experience that came to me shortly before I read the article.

I was asked by a young lady to locate a town in Russia—"Movviw." I searched all gazetteers, atlases, etc., without result. I asked the connection in which it had been used. The reply was that she had been told her family had come from there, by the *Ouija board*!

How is one to tell beforehand?

REFERENCE.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Library Bureau | - - - - - | Publishers |
| M. E. AHERN | - - - - - | Editor |
| Subscription | - - - - - | \$2 a year |
| Five copies to one library | - - - - - | \$8 a year |
| Single number | - - - - - | 25 cents |
| Foreign subscriptions | - - - - - | \$2.25 a year |

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Owing to the increase in the cost of production the policy of PUBLIC LIBRARIES heretofore maintained, of distributing extra indexes free will be discontinued. One copy of the index will be inserted in the December number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES and requests for indexes after that will be charged for at 10 cents a copy.

Concerning the public—Several persons have written commending the editorial in Public Libraries on treatment of the public, (see 22:14) One takes exception, on the ground that it is "usually good natured." So was the boy who threw stones at the frogs.

It is questionable as to whether library ethics are not violated when public servants use the public press to belittle those to whom the library belongs and for whom the library is intended and who have the right to the forbearance and courteous consideration which the position of library attendant betokens. That amusing cir-

cumstances occur in the library can not be denied, neither can it be denied that the occasion for them is equally divided between the public and the attendant, but they are no more to be used as material for jesting on the one hand than for depreciation on the other. The canons of good taste would certainly decree that they should not be used to the belittling of anyone or any effort.

A recent account in an eastern city paper serves as an example, and also shows one reason why the public is slow to use that library extensively. The story, if true, points the field of library endeavor that could well be brought up several degrees and still leave room for improvement. If the public took the chance of telling experiences which it has met in the library, doubtless, the tale would match anything which the assistant could produce as his experience with the public.

What is needed—A librarian of more than usual success in her work writes in regard to her report as follows:

The part of my annual report in which I am most interested and which I hoped would bring some response from my Board is the part headed "Financial situation." Naturally I had our Board in view when writing it, and from that point of view it may not have much general interest, except that I do not think our Board is an exception at all in having to have things repeatedly cast before them before getting to the point of acting. In spite of the fact that we have some splendid men on our Board who know and feel the value of the library, they are yet so afraid of our "City fathers" that they will not back me up in really approaching them for appropriations which they know are needed. I feel so strongly that if the people connected with the library do not see things in a large way that large things will certainly not come to us. Aside from this part of the report, the fact that we

have been handicapped through lack of funds and have still increased our circulation is gratifying, since it upholds my point that the library is an important factor in our town.

Thanking you for your warm interest and help which you show in your letter and that which comes every month through the pages of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. * * *

Inasmuch as the letter was not intended for publication the name is withheld for obvious reasons, but there is, in the letter, valuable suggestions both for librarians and trustees that justifies its publication. It offers an opportunity to bring the matter before library boards and other library officers and if they study carefully what it sets forth, it ought to have value in many instances.

An indefensible move—The libraries of Massachusetts have been sighted by someone on the Civil Service Commission in that state as being desirable to have within the circle of its authority. Accordingly a movement has been started with the purpose of including the public libraries of the state in the list of things over which the Civil Service holds sway. Why the movement has been started in that state is not told. In view of the great strides forward which library work has made in Massachusetts in the last few years, it may be that some of those who are in their present positions, for other reasons than demonstrated fitness, have called on the Civil Service commission for protection.

There is no evidence anywhere that strict Civil Service has worked for the betterment of library work whatever may be claimed for it over political preferment. Occasionally, it has not created as great havoc as was feared on its introduction but in every case where this is so, it will most likely be found that somebody in the commis-

sion or near to it, has manipulated the rules so that they have not borne down as hard on the library situation as they do in other lines. Is this fair? What kind of betterment is that which comes through questionable methods? Shall we accept in library service the worn out doctrine of "the end justifies the means?" No, a thousand times, no! Let it rather be "Hew straight to the line, let the chips fall where they will."

Anyone may examine any library service in the country which is ruled by political civil service and comparing it with a similar one of the same class, but free from it, and see how much superior the results of the interior service rules are to the best Civil Service results that have been produced.

When other communities have shed the nimbus of Civil Service and all good libraries shun its connection, Massachusetts ought to have very definite and special good reasons to show for taking it up. The good libraries of the state, the state library club and the sworn officers in the state library commission say, "No." Who is asking for it and why? To put library service under Civil Service is indefensible.

A new chance—In Omaha and in one or two other places, increased demand on the library has come about through the closing of the saloons in the election last fall.

It has been claimed by workers for the promotion of temperance that the frequenters of saloons in many instances began to go in the first place simply because there was no other unconventional and unrestricted place in which a stranger was made welcome; that the saloon furnished to this class of person a sort of club and that this evident necessity ought not to be left to the business

instincts of the one who wished to make his living by the sale of liquor. It will doubtless be considered that the reason for which the libraries are founded is not to make them club rooms in the full sense of the word. Still, the closing of the saloons in many communities offers an opportunity to afford a welcome to the reading rooms for those who, heretofore, have found the place in which they spent their leisure hours the liquor shops, well lighted, with a pleasant atmosphere and a genial word of welcome from the one who owned the place.

One of the great Wesleys is reported to have said that church people made a mistake when they let Satan have all the good tunes and the places of good cheer. In this view of the matter it might be possible for the libraries to offer a little more in the way of recreation, cordiality and inducement to come, for those who have been shut out by law from what they were wont to consider places worth visiting.

Good Work Continued

At the North End Branch of the Boston public library there is an organization known as the Saturday Evening Girls which has been in existence for some years. It has been from the first made up mostly from the foreign young people which may account for the continued excellence of and interest in the work of its members. It began first as a reading club but as the members have grown up, intellectually as well as physically, the interests and activities of the club have broadened until it is probably the most dominant factor in the lives of the young people of that community. Classes in art—music, drawing, modeling and the drama—have produced wonderful results, domestic science in all its forms, political and social science and neighborhood welfare engage the attention with most desirable results to the betterment of the entire neighborhood. Even the local politicians of the most virulent Boston type, have come to re-

spect the opinion of the Library Club as it is popularly known. A monthly publication, *S. E. G. News*, now in its sixth volume and self-supporting, is a paper that would be a credit to the institution across the Charles River. The Paul Revere pottery is an outgrowth of this club and several dramatic products have come from its older members.

While the first members are now quite grown up, they retain their interest in the work of the club to its great advantage. One of the most praiseworthy things is the spirit of fellowship and personal responsibility which the older members show to the younger members and the children of the neighborhood. A large share of the success of this work is due to the splendid work and spirit of Miss Edith Guerrier, librarian of the branch.

A Much Appreciated Gift

One of the gratifying things of the holiday season was the new edition of Miss Plummer's verses which was issued under the direction of Dr and Mrs E. H. Anderson, for distribution among Miss Plummer's friends and their own. A further gratifying thing is the willingness of Dr. Anderson to send a copy of the little volume to any library desiring it. Dr Anderson could hardly have done anything else that would have given as much pleasure as does his generous thoughtfulness in regard to this.

The foreword to the little volume says: "In 1896 an edition of Miss Plummer's verses was printed mainly for private distribution. The little book has long been out of print and this new edition is issued in response to requests made since the author's death. The earlier volume contained fifteen poems. These are reprinted here, with four which were written later."

The last poem in the volume, "Requiem," is specially significant. The fine courage with which Miss Plummer awaited the coming of her release from earthly pain can be taken as the glowing capstone of the enduring monument builded by her life.

Some 1916 Technical Books ***Chemistry and Metallurgy**

- Bullens—Steel and its heat treatment.
 Cosgrove—Coal; its economical and smokeless combustion.
 Dunn—Industrial uses of fuel oil.
 Lord—Metallurgical analysis.
 Newell—Inorganic chemistry.
 Smith, Alexander—General chemistry for colleges.
 Wagner—Coal and coke.

Engineering

- Andrews—Strength of materials.
 Bishop—Story of the submarine.
 Duryea—Automobile book.
 Flinn—Waterworks handbook.
 Foster—Coal miners' pocketbook.
 Hamilton—Cartridge manufacture.
 Hamilton—High explosive shell manufacture.
 Haywood—Automobile ignition, starting, and lighting.
 Hearne—Zeppelins and super-zeppelins.
 Marks—Mechanical engineers' handbook.
 Lyle—Parks and park engineering.
 Newell—Engineering as a career.
 New York City—Fire department motor apparatus.
 Pagé—Questions and answers relating to modern automobile design, construction, driving and repair.
 Pagé—Starting, lighting and ignition systems.

Miscellaneous

- Bacon—American petroleum industry. 2 vols.
 Beyer—Industrial accident prevention.
 Cotter—Authentic history of the United States Steel Corporation.
 Erchel—Manual of fire prevention and fire protection for hospitals.
 Hemenway—American public health protection.
 Hill—The new public health.
 Hudders—Indexing and filing.
 Hutchinson—Community hygiene.
 Sherbow—Making type work.
 Verrill—The ocean and its mysteries.
 Webb—Concrete and reinforced concrete.
 Zavalla—Canning fruits and vegetables.

City Government

- American Academy of Political and Social Science—Proceedings of the Conference of American mayors on public policies as to municipal utilities. 1915.
 Farrington—Community development. 1915.
 Fosdick—European police systems. 1915.
 Howe—The modern city and its problems. 1915.
 Munro—Principles and methods of municipal administration. 1916.
 Ryan—Municipal freedom; a study of the commission government. 1915.
 *Birmingham public library list.

Toulmin—The city manager; a new profession. 1915.

Wright—The American City. 1916.

Zueblin—American municipal progress. 1916.

Books Worth While

- The Business Man's Legal Adviser, by Boller—6 volumes.
 American Men of Action—Stevenson.
 American Men of Mind—Stevenson.
 Civil Engineers' Pocket-Book—Frantwine.
 Plumbing—Gray.
 Automobile Ignition, Starting, Lighting—Hayward.
 The Gasoline Automobile—Longheed.
 Gas Engines and Producers—Marks.
 Mine Gases, Ventilation—International Library of Technology.
 The Woman Citizens' Library by Mathews—12 vols.
 Costume Designing and Home Planning—Peel.
 Text Book of Cooking—Greer.
 Chemistry of Cooking—Darzens.
 The Worth of a Girl—King.
 Highways and By-Ways in Shakespeare's Country—Hutton.
 The Women of Shakespeare—Harris.

Boys and Girls and Reading

There are plenty of bad books for boys and girls; yet they hardly constitute the real problem in connection with juvenile reading. These books are bad because they are useless rubbish, mere husks without nutriment. They are bad because they stunt a youthful reader's taste and drug his imagination. They are of the dime-novel sort—sometimes modernized and most respectably bound in cloth.

But they hardly constitute the real problems—that is, the boy or girl who does not even read trash. We would rather a boy read dime novels than read nothing. The veriest rubbish may supply a foundation for something better. It may help to the formation of one of the most precious habits any person can form—the habit of relying on books as a means of passing a certain portion of every average day.

A reading habit is about two-thirds of education. We have never known a person who read much that read much trash. Invariably, by our observation, the person who reads rot is one who reads little. If we could have a guaranty that a boy was going to spend a couple of hours a day, as a customary thing, reading books, we should feel sure of his getting round to real books in due time.

The Boy Scouts of America have done a good work in attacking bad juvenile books and suggesting good ones. We do not minimize the importance of throwing out the bad book and putting a good one in its place. But merely seeing that a boy or girl does not read bad books is no discharge of a parent's obligations. That may mean simply that they read no books at all.—*The Saturday Evening Post*.

Some Comparative Costs

Some interesting items from a newspaper clipping are the following: The Per capita home circulation of Portland's public library is the highest in the United States for over 200,000 population. During 1916, the home circulation was 1,468,793 v., the per capita circulation was 5.34. In 1915, the per capita circulation of Portland was 5, that of Cleveland, the second highest, was 4.93. The per capita circulation of Seattle was 4.2, of Los Angeles, 3.68, and of San Francisco 2.57. The per capita expenditure of Portland's library was 57.2 cents and that of Boston 58 cents. The per capita expenditure of Seattle was 47.9 cents, of Los Angeles, 34.8 cents and of San Francisco, 23.8 cents. The home circulation is as follows: Portland, 1,468,793; Seattle, 1,395,239; Los Angeles, 2,027,672; and San Francisco, 1,157,523. The expenditure per volume circulated was Portland, 11.3 cents; Seattle, 11.3 cents; Los Angeles 9.4 cents; and San Francisco, 9.2 cents.

While these figures are interesting they necessarily do not point out, much less emphasize the extent and scope of the service performed for the public in any of these libraries.

Examinations Set for Boston

A special examination for the position of branch librarian will be held in the Boston public library, Copley Square, on February 24. Candidates for this examination must first qualify in Grade B of the library service. The examination in Grade B will be held on February 21. The qualifications for Grade B are: Equivalent of a college education and ability to translate two foreign languages into English.

The special examination will require a knowledge of library administration, cataloging, reference work, work with children, relations of the library to the schools, etc.

Against Military Training

The headquarters of the Woman's Peace Party is sending out printed material showing what the leading educators of the country think of military training in the public schools. This material may be obtained, most of it free of cost, by addressing the Woman's Peace Party, 116 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Among the contributors are the well-known educators, Charles W. Eliot, John H. Finley, W. H. P. Faunce, Robert J. Aley, Harry A. Garfield, Arthur T. Hadley, G. Stanley Hall, David Starr Jordan, Henry C. King, Joseph Swain, Charles F. Thwing, Benjamin Ide Wheeler, John Dewey, N. C. Schaeffer, J. H. Van Sickle, Booker T. Washington, Felix Adler, Kate D. Blake, Grace De Graff, Florence Holbrook and Mary F. Lovell.

A symposium of 80 of the recognized leaders in education, social reform, boy life, child welfare and moral training, express an opinion condemning military training for adolescent youth.

Pictures, banners, color and music have deceived both old and young as to the true nature of war and the real business of serving as soldiers. War painted as it is shows mutilation, agony, murder, hate, revenge and horror. Let us face the truth.

More physical training for boys and girls. *Military* training for neither.

A County Library in Illinois

By the terms of the will of Captain Robert B. Stinson, who bequeathed an endowment for a library to the city of Anna, the library is free to both city and county. The fact that the library is supported entirely by the endowment, has enabled it to do county extension work that other libraries in Illinois are not able to do.

Publicity through the county papers, the county fair, and the teachers' institute when the library was opened, July 1914, brought many patrons from the surrounding villages and country, but far from the number that the library was capable of serving. So we determined to increase the use of the library by visiting a number of rural schools one day each week, and supplying the children there with books.

Two routes were mapped out, each about 25 miles in length, with six schools on one and five on the other. Then two book-cases were made, each to hold about 75 books and of such shape as to fit on the floor and back seat of a surrey. One day each week I drive over one of these routes, each school thus being visited once in two weeks. The book-cases are taken directly into the school-room, the children choose their books and have them charged just as they would at the main library.

Each trip has but increased the initial pleasure. The opportunity of studying the needs of the schools, and of putting into the hands of the children just the books they ought to have, are important features of the work. But more important is the fact that the reading habit is being formed by many boys and girls who would never have found their way to the main library.

The outlook is promising. I have now made seven trips this year, have added 400 new borrowers and have circulated 1,346 books. It was feared that the interest would die when the novelty had worn off after the first visit or two, but the interest increases with every visit, each trip bringing us from 15 to 40 new readers. There was some prejudice to overcome, many of the fathers being

afraid "there was some catch in it," but that is gradually working itself off, and many of the parents are now sending by the children for books. It is not the intention to confine the work to the schools. Stops will be made at residences along the routes as soon as the school work is well organized.

There is no estimating the far reaching influence of the work. One of the teachers said when I spoke to him of the number who were using the book-wagon, "You do not know how many people are reading these books. Every book that my pupils take home is read by all the members of the family before it is returned."

LUEVA MONTGOMERY,
Librarian.

Stimson memorial library,
Anna, Illinois.

A Tale of Woe

I'd like to steal a while away from technologic cares, and spend an hour devising traps and pits and gins and snares, to catch and maim and mangle the de-cerebrated gink who scatters furniture about because he doesn't think. When caught, a bibliography he'd make on Safety First, and memorize each reference the while his shins he nursed. A footstool chained to ankle he should drag upon the floor, to prevent his leaving it about forever, evermore. Will I please be more specific as the charge is comprehensive? No, I won't. The folks who'd profit might consider it offensive. But if you should ever use a pair of steps within the stack, may it skin your favorite shin if you forget to put it back.—*From Technology division, Cleveland public library.*

Lo! of hundreds who aspire,
Eighties perish—nineties tire!
They who bear up, in spite of wrecks and wracks,
Were seasoned by celestial hail of thwacks.

Fortune in this mortal race
Builds on thwackings for a base.

—George Meredith.

Midwinter Meetings in Chicago A. L. A. council

The A. L. A. council met on the morning of December 28, with President Walter L. Brown in the chair. Business and reports were deferred and the discussion of the Insurance valuation of library books was presented by Samuel H. Ranck of Grand Rapids. Mr Ranck did not agree with the members that insurance is not a business of the librarian, it is the business of the trustees. He thought librarians ought to know about it. Mr Dudgeon, continuing the discussion said, according to the rate of values the catalog should probably be valued at the cost of raw materials plus the labor that goes into it. The question arises as to whether the cost of cataloging adds value to the book that is cataloged. Most insurance companies regard catalogs as cardboard and only in so far as that, is it possible to get insurance on them. The only safe way of getting insurance on a card catalog is either to fix it as a special value or to have a clause to the effect that the value of the card catalog should be the cost of producing that catalog. There ought to be an insurance form made out in a systematic and scientific manner covering all the forms a library should look out for in placing its insurance, leaving it optional for the library to make any modifications that might be suitable.

With the growing size of the library, depreciation of its books should grow less. It is accepted that periodicals increase in value with time. The Cleveland library for the purpose of classification has used five heads paying at the valuation of each, juvenile books being placed at the lowest, the reference books at the highest with all the books in the main library. Their policy is a blanket covering the whole book collection wherever it may be with separate policies on the catalog. The collection at the main library has the lowest rate of any library in the country because it is sprinklered. The library carries a five year policy, and one quarter of the total cost is car-

ried by each year's appropriation. The buildings each have a different rating and an average rate covers all of them.

The Public library of New York City carries its own insurance and does not deal with any insurance company. The circulation collection in print is a simple problem compared with putting a valuation of insurance on a collection that is the result of years of growth and development along certain lines and which becomes, in time, irreplaceable.

Dr Putman reported in reply to a question, that the United States Government does not insure.

The summing up of the discussion was that unless the loss is very unusual, when the library is insured for a certain value and premiums have been paid that insurance companies as a matter of business and fair dealing, will settle on a fair basis. The discussion was very interesting and very prolonged.

The second topic was "What more can the A. L. A. Publishing Board do?" Mr Legler opened it by reviewing the work of the Publishing Board. He spoke most appreciatively of the work the first Publishing Board had done. With great disinterestedness, meeting objections and discouragements with courage to do under difficulties, they started this work of good. The roll of honor contains the names of J. L. Whitney, W. I. Fletcher, W. C. Lane, Melvil Dewey, C. A. Cutter, R. R. Bowker, Miss L. E. Coe and C. C. Soule. The work began with \$458 received from membership dues. Mr Legler reviewed most interestingly, the books that had been issued. (Mr Utley, the secretary, has placed on exhibition such as still remain in print.) Mr Legler then reviewed those that still remain in print and the current publication of the board. The amount and value of the out-put were astonishing to all who heard him. Mr Legler said that the Bureau of Education reported that by 2,315 libraries, the enormous sum of four million dollars was spent in buying books. He spoke in the most force-

ful terms of the value of the *Booklist* particularly to the smaller libraries having no means or opportunity of obtaining book valuations. He said, further, that the Publishing Board's work is a large insurance policy against the commercial concerns which may issue publications along similar lines. So far the library world has been very fortunate that those commercial concerns with which it has had close connection, had not only business capacity, but a conscience as well, and we have much to be grateful for, in what they have given us in the tools and materials which we use every day. It is to be expected that they are entitled to a legitimate profit as they cannot do as the Publication Board does, handle material at the actual cost.

The sales of the Publishing Board have increased from \$2,558 in 1897 to \$12,554 in 1916. During that time \$134,330 has been paid by the libraries for the publications which the Publishing Board has issued from time to time. A conservative estimate would show that the work of the Publishing Board has saved to the library world during that period, in the purchase of bibliographical material alone, at least 50%, or a sum equal to \$60,000. The Publishing Board has not been able to respond to all suggestions because it has had so many. Criticisms have also been made and doubtless many of them have been due. Careful and impartial examination and weighing would seem to show that most of those buying the *Booklist* at the present time, are satisfied with it. What more can the Publishing Board do, is really a question to which the answer will be most welcome.

Mr Bowerman said he had two suggestions to make: one was that the Publishing Board should issue something like the *Library Annual*, something that would be more than merely statistical. *The Publisher's Weekly* has attempted something of the kind which takes in only 65 libraries, but Mr Bowker has found that the money invested has not been repaid, so he thinks he cannot continue it. The

Bureau of Education publishes a so called five yearly list but the facts in it are two years old when they are published. Mr Bowerman, in a very full presentation, said that neither the Board of Education list nor the A. L. A. list met the need which seemed to be for something descriptive, showing the valuation and competency of libraries. He further suggested that the A. L. A. should get up a sort of library annual that everybody will like to have and put it up before the commissioner of education to say if he would take it over as it would be a very expensive thing. He thought the commissioner of education would be willing to do this. He also asked for a supplement to the *A. L. A. Booklist* by which all foreign books, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and French should be listed as soon as issued for the libraries that have to buy foreign literature.

Miss Rathbone suggested that the library *Who's Who* be issued showing the actual positions held by librarians with their other educational experiences. Miss Rathbone said that such a directory would be very useful if it would give definite information about librarians at work. Mr Bowerman thought that if they insisted on the date of birth it would work a detriment.

A suggestion was made that the Publishing Board ought to make some relations with the publishing houses that would guarantee continuance of the work under any consideration.

Dr Hill suggested that the Publishing Board collect photographs of the exterior and interior plans of library buildings, have them all of the same size, mounted and deposited at A. L. A. headquarters for use for public libraries when needed. These should be arranged by the cost of the building as, usually, that is the difficulty in selecting and studying plans. This brought up considerable discussion and the matter was finally referred to the Publishing Board with the request for them to consider it.

On Friday morning, the meeting opened with a discussion relating to a circular issued by the H. W. Wilson

Company dealing with the plan of assessment for the use of bibliographical material on the basis of the number of magazines subscribed for. Mr Legler thought the matter ought to be discussed impartially as it involved a new principle in the charges which are made for bibliographical material used in libraries. Mr Wilson's contention is that he is furnishing not only the paper and the printed words but he is furnishing the bibliographical service, and it is from this basis that he is charging one library one amount and another a different sum. This is illustrated in the case of New Haven public library where the library is charged about \$22 and the Yale University which is charged \$76.

Mr Wilson, by invitation of the president, explained the plan. The Wilson Company was a public service corporation and being such they trusted to take the public into their confidence as to their business affairs. The problem that confronts the bibliographical publisher is a matter of financial support. Bibliographical publishing has always been a hazardous business and most firms that go into it fail. It is seldom carried out on a commercial basis. We are only interested in devising a basis which may be more satisfactory than the one we have. We court investigation and ask for any advice that will help us make any improvements.

A question has been raised on the part of the larger libraries whether smaller libraries do not benefit by the indexing of material which it does not possess in the library. Mr Wilson then explained the basis of his charge giving a full, interesting detail. He answered quite fully and frankly the questions which were asked as to how it affected the prices offered to various libraries. The discussion, at times, grew quite heated. Mr Brett called attention to the fact that it was not a question of buying a book of so many pages, it was a question of securing trained bibliographical service and that any library that would have an index for its own use would have to pay,

at least twice as much, for the service which the *Reader's Guide* gives. There has been over \$1,000 worth of work put into the index and no library could afford to do it.

Mr Bowker, speaking out of his experience with the *American Catalog* and other publications had arrived at the conclusion that most bibliographical people have either been subsidized or have operated at a loss.

Dr Andrews thought that in the interest of charging a larger price to the larger libraries, the Wilson Company ought to call for subscriptions and specify the amount that would be necessary to carry on the work.

Mr Lydinberg referred to the plan that is working in Boston, where libraries subscribe to the indexes for periodicals in their vicinity according to the number of copies they get.

Mr Wilson called attention to the fact that libraries that had paid an initial share to the cost of production could get as many volumes as they wanted at the minimum price.

The whole discussion was extremely interesting and so were the many things which were said individually by the speakers.

President Brown asked for an expression of opinion as to the preference of those present, between Cincinnati and Louisville for the A. L. A. meeting in 1917. The vote resulted in Louisville's favor.

Miss Doren was then called upon to report on the investigation which had been made in Ohio on the Standardization of library service. Miss Doren was received with hearty and prolonged applause at her reappearance as a speaker before the A. L. A., the first time for a number of years.

Miss Doren said the chief trouble with the investigation was that it bristled with questions that nobody could answer and yet every one feels that there must be an answer to them. She then reported the various steps taken in their investigation. The first necessity she found to be a definition of the things that they were to find.

The answer to the questionnaires showed nothing conclusive in the matters of the requirement of entrance into the work they were doing. The question of standardization resolved itself into a question of certification of librarians of certain recognized standards, below which, good, excellence or fair must not fall. It became a question as to an agreement to be used as a basis. The question of a minimum for entrance is not easily settled. A person may be serving in one branch and may not be competent to serve in any other branch without further preparation or experience or both, and what is necessary for one town may not be applicable to another.

A very interesting discussion followed, in which the necessity for some sort of a basis was established, as was also the unsuitability of the civil service examinations for providing library certificates. A member expressed the idea that libraries had better let well alone, that the standards of the individual library seemed to set the individual need and until the subject became better understood, there was danger of taking something which would not be so easily got rid of, once it was established. The point was also brought out that state certification of librarians throughout the state, without state aid to libraries was impractical.

A motion was carried that a committee be appointed to investigate and report to the Association as well as to the council at a future meeting.

Mr Bowker presented the scheme of Mr Lee, to form a bureau of information. After a short discussion it was voted that a committee of five take into consideration a further report upon the question of sponsorship in coöperation with the Special library association.

Mr Brett called attention to the exhibits of plans for new library buildings which were at the back of the room.

Mr Bowerman spoke on the work of the committee on Library administration for the year. He also reported

with regard to the interest in labor saving devices in one library. Only Dr. Johnson of St. Paul, had written to express interest in the subject to Mr Ranck on whose suggestion the committee was appointed and investigated last year.

A. L. A. executive board

The Executive Board held two meetings and matters of varying interest were discussed. The report of the treasurer showed receipts for the year, \$20,292; expenditures, \$11,038; balance in hand \$4,504. The Whitney fund now amounts to \$281. The budget for the year provided as follows: estimated income, \$24,480; expenditures, \$12,700.

Louisville was selected as the meeting place for the A. L. A. in 1917, the time being June 21-27.

The nominating committee appointed is as follows: H. C. Wellman, Springfield, Massachusetts; G. A. Countryman, Minneapolis; Fannie C. Rawson, Frankfort, Kentucky; Charles H. Brown, Brooklyn; and Everett R. Perry, Los Angeles.

After considerable discussion, a proposal to appoint a committee, either special or standing, for library work with foreigners was laid on the table.

The committee on cost and method of cataloging was discharged, its work being finished.

W. H. Kerr submitted a long report on publicity which will be given at length in the *Proceedings*.

The report recommended that a publicity survey be made, that coöperative printing be done, that a permanent publicity officer be employed whose salary should be paid by subscriptions from libraries, library commissions, state associations and the A. L. A., that publicity material be sold to libraries at actual cost and that the A. L. A. headquarters provide space and clerical service for the publicity expert.

In agreement with the desire of the Council, the Board voted that the president be authorized to appoint a committee of three to consider the periodical subscriptions and prices charged by the H. W. Wilson Company.

It was voted that a special committee be appointed on catalog rules and methods.

The secretary, as editor of the Conference proceedings, was authorized to publish summaries instead of full papers in as far as he deems it feasible.

League of library commissions

The annual meeting of the League of library commissions was held in Chicago, December 28-29. The meeting was called to order on Thursday afternoon, by Miss Fanny Rawson of Kentucky, president. The program opened by Miss Clara F. Baldwin of Minnesota, who discussed Summer library schools. She founded her remarks on the methods and conduct of the schools from the library commissions' standpoint and emphasized the distinct field for the summer school and the importance of restricting the attendance to people already in the work and holding paid positions. There are, at present, only seven summer schools entirely under the direction of Library commissions. Simmons college and the University of Illinois offer summer library courses and seven other universities as well. Chautauqua and Riverside are independent of any state supervision. Miss Baldwin then reviewed the work offered by the schools and the time required to accomplish it. She thought that the recommendation of one hour per day for book selection including bibliography was too high even when children's work was included. Reports indicated an increase in the amount of work done and the danger seems to lie in over-crowding rather than otherwise. There is also an increase in the number of students attending. Four commission schools are limiting the attendance to those living in their own states. The A. L. A. standard of one instructor to every 15 students is being followed by every school reporting.

Miss Baldwin said there seemed to be a danger in offering any kind of certificate for work done in the summer school, for inefficient persons will use it to impose upon library trustees and the public who are ignorant of

what library training implies. In conclusion, Miss Baldwin said that summer courses should either be under commission direction or closely affiliated with them.

The discussion centered around two points: the division of the courses into two parts as practised at Simmons, and the question of admitting students who do not hold actual library positions as is done by one university. It was pointed out that no less training was received because the work in particular courses was concentrated and there was the added advantage that some persons who could not come for the six weeks could come for three in order to take training in those subjects in which they particularly needed it.

University librarians present maintained that the library courses had to be offered upon the same conditions as other university courses. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the summer school ought to be restricted to persons holding positions as its purpose is not to teach those who wish to enter the profession, but to give assistance to those who are already doing the work.

P. L. Windsor of the University of Illinois, outlined the problem for the certification of librarians. He pointed out the difference between civil service and certification. The former provides both for fitness at the time of appointment and protection afterwards. Civil service is local, certification would be state wide. Library boards with high standards would be upheld and those with low standards would be blocked. The certification system is aimed at the library below standard. Certification will certainly increase the influence of the state commission over the librarians of the state and will serve this purpose better than state aid. Civil service law experiences, in both town and country, have proved that the civil service in the library is unsuccessful.

After this discussion, it was finally voted that the Council of the A. L. A. be asked to consider the matter of certification of librarians. Considering the

classification of libraries as to standardization; who shall be required to hold a library certificate; shall certificates be granted for technical or general education, and what is the definition of an assistant librarian.

"Aims and under-lying principles of commission work" by Henry N. Sanborn of Indiana, was radical in some of its statements. He said that the traveling library idea, which at the very first, had no place among library commission aims, has grown until it is the chief work of about a third of the existing commissions. He thought that the commission that makes its traveling library department its chief care is not doing the best thing for the library interests of the state. The modern conception of a state library is a library to serve all the inhabitants of the state. It is useless expenditure in the same state for various state units to attempt to do the same work, as for a commission to employ reference librarians to build up open shelf reference collections. The same thing is true in regard to the work with study clubs. The specialist connected with the university of the state should be better able to make study outlines than the reference librarian of the traveling library department. Where library commissions are independent of other state supported institutions, they should not try to do the work which other institutions can do better or as well, but should use the traveling libraries to furnish general reading, to supply books to study clubs in coöperation with other institutions, to furnish general reading to rural schools, and to lend books to small public libraries as a help to meet the demand upon them. Traveling libraries are a temporary substitute for public libraries, in time they should become unnecessary.

The importance of field work cannot be exaggerated. Public library efficiency and public library support seem to bear a very direct ratio to the amount of attention the libraries receive from the state body which is supposed to look after their interests and standards.

There is very much more to be done than the ordinary commission has time or means to undertake and a commission should undertake nothing that anyone else can do better. Too many commissions model their work on that of others instead of adapting it to their own peculiar conditions.

The discussion was spirited. It was stated that there would always be certain sections of the state that would need traveling libraries; traveling libraries are necessary to the beginning of commission work; a system of county traveling libraries would be superior to a state traveling library.

Mr Locke, Canada, said that the farmers were not getting any particular benefit from the traveling libraries because they felt that they were getting something for nothing. He thought localities should establish their own library rather than depend on a traveling library.

On Friday Mary E. Downey read a paper on State library extension in which she reviewed the ways in which state commissions can help. She recommended a committee to standardize the commission's work and the making of a classification and standardization of libraries according to size and service. Miss Downey pointed out that small libraries will always have a larger circulation, per capita, than libraries in larger towns because they mean more to the former. Miss Robinson of Iowa, thought that this was so because the percentage of fiction read in smaller towns is greater while the people in the larger towns buy largely their own fiction books. She also said that this was not criterion by which to judge of the work of a library which does an overwhelming amount of reference work.

Miss Ahern said that she was never in favor of judging the usefulness of a library by its circulation. A more just criterion would be the appreciation of the inhabitants who were users of the library. The percentage of the population using the library was a fairer test. The large amount of fiction read

in small towns does account for the increase in circulation.

The committee on "Aids to new commissions" have in hand the material for a handbook on the subject and Mr Watson reported for the committee that they work in the dark because they do not know local conditions.

The committee on publications has a list on work of prison libraries the first part of which has already been issued and the other ready for the press. He suggested that the Publication committee act as a clearing house for all commissions and other publications of importance. It was suggested that this committee try to secure information ahead of publication so as to avoid duplication by any publishing agency.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs Elizabeth C. Earl, first vice-president, Mrs Minnie C. Budlong, second vice-president, Miss Rebecca W. Wright. Miss Minnie W. Leatherman, member of the Executive committee. The secretary holds office for another year.

Chicago Meeting of University Librarians

The annual round table of the university librarians of the Middle-west was held at Hotel La Salle on Saturday, December 30, 1916.

Mr Drury of the University of Illinois opened the program with a talk on Library codes or staff manuals. He described various manuals in use, their arrangement, form, style, advantages, etc., and emphasized the importance of recording decisions, library practices and department routines. He also called attention to a lack of a uniform nomenclature for university library work. The motion was passed that Mr Drury be requested to communicate with the Eastern college librarians with a view to the joint preparation of a code to secure uniform nomenclature and of a statement of various routines, practices, etc., as a basis for comparison and study.

The subject of the Importation of books and periodicals from the central powers of Europe was opened by Mr

Bishop of the University of Michigan, and continued by Dr Andrews of the John Crerar library. Dr Andrews, who is a member of the A. L. A. committee on this subject, told of the conferences between the committee, the Librarian of Congress and the British Embassy, which it is hoped will result in making the importation of books more satisfactory and successful. In particular, it is the aim to secure a modification of the present rule by which all permits lapse in 60 days and to enable libraries to receive periodicals regularly. A representative of the Library of Congress (Dr Koch) is to go to Rotterdam to facilitate the process of importation for American libraries.

At the afternoon session Mr H. W. Wilson explained a tentative plan for issuing union serial lists. The basis of this plan would be the publication by the H. W. Wilson Co. of a magazine checklist of 10,000 or 15,000 titles chosen from the principal serials in the large libraries of the United States. This publication would contain the bibliographical data most necessary for the completion and arrangement of the files of periodicals, such as inclusive dates and volumes, changes of title, combinations, etc., with cross references from earlier titles. With this as a foundation, there could be issued, for various districts or groups of libraries, union lists giving abbreviated title entries and indicating inclusive volumes to be found in the libraries of the district. For titles not included in the foundation list, full bibliographical data would be given in the union serial lists. There would thus be a saving in the work of preparing a list and in cost of publishing it. The discussion of this subject disclosed the fact that the Universities of Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin have serial lists ready for publication and that the University of Illinois has the revision of its printed list practically ready. The importance of issuing one union list rather than four separate lists was emphasized and the suggestion was made that the Chicago and other middle west libraries might join and make possible at this time a

union serial list for the middle west. The motion was passed that the matter of issuing such a list be referred to a committee composed of the librarians of the Universities of Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

The committee on instructing freshmen in the use of the library had no report to make and was continued.

Mr W. W. Bishop was elected as member of the committee on program.

After a short discussion on accession records, reserve books and fines, the meeting adjourned.

MALCOLM G. WYER,
Chairman.

Illinois Library Association Notes

The legislative committee of the Illinois library association held a meeting in Chicago on Saturday, December 30. There was not a full attendance of the committee present but there was a very serious and careful consideration of the bills referred to it. There were five members of the association present.

The proposed bill authorizing counties to establish and maintain public libraries and reading rooms was gone over very carefully. The California county law forms the basis for the proposed Illinois law, the only difficulty being that at present there is no board like that in the California, in existence in Illinois. Objection was made to the examining power being vested in the State Library extension commission, as this is made up of the secretary of the state, an elected political officer, and two other members appointed by the Governor subject to political opinions.

The point in the bill which gives ground for serious thought is the attitude which libraries now established may have toward the proposed county law. The county tax must be spread over all the county and must, therefore, be applied to towns as well as the county. Some of the municipal libraries already in existence are not friendly toward the proposition. This is a point which needs careful consideration and coöperation will be necessary to make any plan succeed.

The committee discussed very carefully and seriously, at considerable length, the proposed certification of library workers in the state. The difficulties which presented themselves were, first, that part of the libraries are at present under the State civil service commission; absence of a proper board to conduct examinations; a lack of precedent of desirable form and provisions of such a law; the evident opposition that such a law would meet with from many of the library workers of the state; and, lastly, as to whether, under the present degree of public interest in libraries, it would be expedient to adopt such a law. It was furthermore urged that there was a general lack of definite opinion as to what constitutes library assistants, etc., in the library ranks.

A motion by Miss Ahern, seconded by Mr Barr, to lay this bill on the table was carried unanimously.

Proposals for a law promoting community libraries, that is, providing for two or more communities, either municipal or township, to unite for taxing purposes, were thought to be contrary to the established law and the consideration of this was deferred for the present.

New York Library Association

The Executive Committee of the New York library association met in Brooklyn at the home of the president, Mr Edward F. Stevens, on Tuesday, January 9. The entire committee, consisting of the President, Miss Zachert, Mr Walter, Miss Lauder, and Mr Rice was present, and by invitation Messrs Spaulding and Gaillard attended to make special representations to the committee. The conference was prolonged and profitable. All of the standing and special committees, as already negotiated by the president, were confirmed with the following members as chairmen:

Library institutes—Asa Wynkoop, Albany, N. Y.

Legislation—William R. Watson, Albany, N. Y.

Publicity—Franklin F. Hopper, New York public library.

Charitable, reformatory and penal insti-

tutions—James I. Wyer, Jr., Albany, N. Y.
 Relations of libraries and schools—Mary E. Hall, Girls' high-school, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Merit System—William F. Yust, Rochester, N. Y.

Rural communities—Caroline M. Underhill, Utica, N. Y.

Hospitality—Theresa Hitchler, Brooklyn public library.

In Mr Hopper's absence from town, Mr Spaulding presented the plan of campaign of the Publicity committee which involves a state-wide endeavor to double the association's membership. The plan will be presented in detail in the forthcoming issue of *New York Libraries*.

Mr Gaillard urged the committee to take action to promote legislation to suppress the sale of stolen books. A special committee, with Mr Anderson as chairman, was named to have charge of the matter.

The publication of a new Manual incorporating the expected greatly increased new membership was authorized to appear in time for distribution at the September conference.

E. LOUISE LAUDER,
 Secretary.

Atlantic City Annual Meeting

The twenty-first annual meeting of the New Jersey library association and the Pennsylvania library club will be held at Atlantic City, March 2 and 3, 1917.

There will be three general sessions at the Hotel Chelsea, as follows:

Friday, March 2, 8:30 p. m., under the direction of the New Jersey library association.

Saturday, March 3, 11 a. m., under the direction of the Pennsylvania library club.

Saturday, March 3, 8:30 p. m., a general session.

A special meeting of the New Jersey library association will be held on Friday, March 2, 3:30 p. m., as follows:

Chairman, Dr Ernest C. Richardson, president, New Jersey library association; librarian, Princeton University, Princeton.

Topic: Satisfactory supplies.
 (Speakers announced later.)

The first session of the joint program, under the direction of the New Jersey library association, will be announced later.

The second session, Saturday, March 3, 11 a. m.

Chairman, John Ashhurst, president, Pennsylvania library club; librarian, Free library of Philadelphia.

Work of the Pennsylvania free library commission, Miss Anna MacDonald, consulting librarian, Pennsylvania free library commission.

The Indians of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and the literature concerning them, Dr George P. Donehoo, Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

The third session, Saturday, March 3, 8:30 p. m.

Chairman, Hon Thomas L. Montgomery, state librarian, Pennsylvania state library, Harrisburg.

Announcement of the Travel Committee of the American library association, Frederick W. Faxon, Boston Book Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

The rates at the Hotel Chelsea:

One person in a room, (without bath) \$3.50 per day.

Two persons in a room, (without bath) each, \$3.00 per day.

One person in a room, (with bath) \$4.50 per day.

Two persons in a room, (with bath) each, \$4.00 per day.

Members desiring to obtain special rates for a week or longer are requested to correspond with the proprietor.

Members of other library clubs and friends in adjacent states are cordially invited to be present and to take part in the meeting.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN,
 Pennsylvania library club, Secretary.

Coming Meetings

The American library institute will hold a meeting at Atlantic City, March 3, 9:30 a. m.

At the meeting of the executive board in Chicago during the holidays, it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Illinois library association in Decatur sometime in next October.

Special Libraries Meeting East

The Special library association, Eastern district, held a meeting at New Haven, Connecticut, December 8-9, 1916. There were about 55 librarians of Southern New England present. The general topic for discussion was "Coördination and the desirability of forming a New England Special library association."

Before the meeting those present were treated to a drive about New Haven as guests of the New Haven Chamber of commerce.

The chairman, H. O. Brigham, Rhode Island state librarian, was unable to be present, and George S. Godard, State librarian of Connecticut, presided.

G. W. Lee, librarian of Stone & Webster, Boston, told in his inimitable way the value of such an organization as was proposed. Mr Lee's address was followed by a discussion of the several libraries of New Haven by the librarians in charge of them. The Public library was described by W. K. Stetson, the New Haven Colony historical society by F. Bostwick, the High school library by Miss Bradley, the New Haven county bar library by Miss M. H. Foote, the Telephone Company library by Miss Mix, and the Winchester Arms Company by Miss Peck. Mr Keogh of Yale university told of the special libraries of that institution and dwelt on the desirability of having specialists in charge of special departments in libraries and also of having catalogers with special knowledge of the particular subject.

The Friday program contained the following speakers: H. R. Simmons, on the Providence engineering society, G. W. Lee on Information resources, and the Information clearing house of Boston by Lewis A. Armistead, librarian, Boston Elevated Railway Co. Dr C. C. Williamson of the Municipal reference library, New York City, told of the work that was done there. The need of a central registration bureau for special libraries and for workers as translators was discussed by Miss Mills of the General Electric Company, Boston, Dr Williamson, W. P. Cutter, Engineering So-

ciety, New York, and J. H. Madden, the American Brass Company. A resolution that the H. W. Wilson Company be appointed as the registration bureau with service on a paid basis was favored.

At the Saturday meeting W. P. Cutter presided. The subject for discussion was Team work among librarians. Mr Godard told of the work of the Connecticut State library, specially in preserving and making accessible the vital records of Connecticut. Mr Lee of Boston urged the desirability of forming a society of New England special libraries. The project was discussed favorably and it was voted an Eastern section of the Special library association be created.

P. H. Nystrom of the U. S. Rubber Company of New York, urged coöperation between the public and special libraries so as not to duplicate effort. Mr Wilson expressed his willingness to coöperate with libraries and to establish a registration bureau if business warranted. Attention was called to the series of articles on Special libraries in Boston now appearing in the *Boston University News*, by R. L. Power.

At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was passed to the hosts of the occasion.

The Telephone and the Library

Much use of the library requires a personal visit to the building, but a great deal can be accomplished at the two ends of a telephone wire. At the reader's end, books can be ordered for home-use, to be sent by parcel post, volumes can be renewed, and all kinds of reference questions can be asked. At the library's end, requests may be received, the library's resources on a given subject can be briefly explained, all sorts of assistance in the selection of reading-matter can be given, almost as well as if reader and librarian stood face to face, and answers to queries can be sought and returned. The telephone brings more than 50 per cent of the library service directly into the homes of our citizens.—*Bulletin*, St. Louis public library.

Library Meetings

Chicago—A reception was given December 29 by the Chicago library club to those attending the midwinter library meetings in Chicago. The reception was held in the ball room of the La Salle Hotel. There was music by an orchestra, which gave opportunity to those who wished to do so, to dance. It was the sentiment of the executive committee of the Club that no form of entertainment could be provided that could compete with the operas, concerts, and theatres, which visiting librarians might wish to attend, but it seemed desirable to provide some opportunity for those who attended the meetings of the separate organizations, to come together for social intercourse. The reception was quite informal, and was attended by about 200, including members of the Chicago library club.

FAITH E. SMITH,
President.

Idaho—The second annual meeting of the Idaho library association met at Caldwell, January 1-2, in the Carnegie library.

Many practical and instructive papers were given by the librarians and others interested in the work. The round-table which followed showed that the Idaho librarians are thoroughly interested in their work, which is necessarily of a pioneer nature at present. All were unanimously in favor of a campaign to secure a State organizer, Caldwell and Pocatello having to send out of the state for help during the last year, Miss Della Ellinwood of Rose, N. Y., spending four months with these two libraries.

The Forward club of Caldwell entertained the visitors at a reception and luncheon. The invitation to meet in Pocatello next year was accepted.

The following officers were elected for 1917: President, Gretchen Louise Smith, Idaho technical institute, Pocatello; vice-president, Ethel Mitchell, Carnegie library, Boise; secretary, Lalla Bedford, Public library, Caldwell; treasurer, M. Snowden Reed, Traveling library commission, Boise.

LALLA BEDFORD,
Secretary.

Kansas—The Kansas and Oklahoma library associations met in joint conference, for the first time, at Arkansas City, Kansas, on October 31, November 1-2. Although the members of the two associations were almost entirely strangers to each other, the interstate meeting was thought by all to be a great success. A second joint session has, in consequence, been suggested for 1918, probably at Tulsa, Oklahoma. The total registration was 97, 68 coming from Kansas, 24 from Oklahoma, 2 each from Missouri and Illinois, and 1 from New Mexico. The fine hospitality of Arkansas City, the interesting program, the fraternal spirit which was everywhere in evidence, and the wonderful autumn weather of southern Kansas, heightened by gentle zephyrs from Oklahoma (for Arkansas City is but a few miles from the state line), combined to make this a memorable gathering. Several who are familiar with the annual meetings of the A. L. A. agreed that the session on the afternoon of November 1 equalled in interest the best A. L. A. session they had ever attended.

After the preliminary registration, Mr Albert Faulconer, vice-president of the Arkansas City library board, in a felicitous speech, showing a fine appreciation of library work, welcomed the visitors to the city. Happy responses were made by Miss Hattie Osborne, president of the Kansas association, and by Mrs J. R. Dale for Oklahoma. Answers to the roll call, "How we advertise our books," brought forth many excellent suggestions which, if followed, should be of very material help to those present.

The program for the three days was both interesting and helpful, with valuable contributions to it by Mrs S. J. Greenman of Kansas City, Kansas, Mr G. B. Utley, secretary of the A. L. A., and a number of others.

The social side of the meeting was not neglected, automobile rides, luncheons, dinner, and other entertainments being provided for the visitors.

The following officers were elected for Oklahoma: President, Miss Mary Radford, Muskogee; first vice-president,

Mrs J. R. Dale, Hobart; second vice-president, Miss Edith Allen Phelps, Oklahoma City; secretary, Mrs R. M. Funk, Shawnee; treasurer, Mrs N. F. Horne, Enid.

For Kansas: President, Mrs A. B. Ranney, Arkansas City; first vice-president, Miss Hattie Osborne, Baldwin; second vice-president, Mrs T. G. Randolph, Pittsburg; third vice-president, Miss Garnette Heaton, Junction City; secretary, Truman R. Temple, Leavenworth; treasurer, Julius Lucht, Wichita.

New Mexico—The Library section of the New Mexico state educational association met at Santa Fe, November 29, 1916.

Miss Myrtle M. Cole, of Raton, presided and Mrs Blanche Parrett, of Estancia, acted as secretary.

The first matter of business was election of officers, and the following were elected: Miss Myrtle M. Cole, librarian of the Public library at Raton, was re-elected president; Mrs Willa L. Skipwith, librarian, Carnegie library, Roswell, vice-president; Miss Floy E. French, librarian, State Agricultural college, State College, N. M., secretary. Members of the Educational council are, Miss Rose Henderson, of the Silver City normal for the three year term; Miss Pauline Madden, librarian, Albuquerque, for the two year term; Mrs Lola Armijo, Legislative librarian, Santa Fe, for the one year term.

Then followed a spirited discussion of needed library legislation. The section determined to make a great effort to secure legislation authorizing communities to levy an ample tax for the maintenance of public libraries. An enabling act is also to be asked for that will enable counties to buy library service from a centralized library. At present there are only five libraries in the state with buildings of their own. The other small libraries are conducted by Women's clubs. As library work is in its infancy in the state it will expedite matters for even two or three counties to have service from one well-established library. A legislative committee was appointed to work with a legisla-

tive committee from the State federation of women's clubs.

The subject for the meeting was the Library in educational extension. Miss Rose Henderson of the English department of the Silver City normal read an able paper treating of libraries from the standpoint of a teacher of English. She pointed out the usefulness of libraries to every element in the community and the intensely practical service that books in the hands of a skilled librarian have rendered in every field of activity.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Alvan N. White spoke of the importance of the library section to the Educational association, and dwelt upon the necessity of library training, or lessons in library science, for public school teachers.

Mrs A. B. Renchan, president of the Santa Fe Woman's Board of Trade, read a most interesting paper on "Practical means of providing funds for library uses." She told of the founding and work of the Woman's Board of Trade, which, without outside contributions, built a beautiful library and has maintained it without assistance from any public source for years.

Mrs Rupert F. Asplund, recently president of the State federation of women's clubs and formerly librarian of the New Mexico state university, discussed the above paper most interestingly. She also stated that the State Federation had raised a fund of \$50 to establish the beginning of traveling libraries which are to be sent out from the State university to clubs in towns having no libraries.

Mrs Josie Lockard of Raton, and County superintendent of schools for Colfax County, spoke on the subject from the point of view of the county superintendent. She was most enthusiastic over library extension and advocated a central library plan from which rural schools and even the remotest communities can be supplied with reading matter of the right kind. That is the help the New Mexico teachers in the many isolated districts need.

Prof Van Horn, professor of Latin

and librarian of the New Mexico normal university at Las Vegas, made a plea for trained librarians for the state educational institutions. He strongly urged the addition of courses in library science for our young teachers.

Mrs Harry L. Wilson, librarian of the School of American archaeology at Santa Fe, gave a practical talk on the use of a reference and science library such as that in the Museum of New Mexico. Her talk was followed by a practical demonstration showing to those in attendance the many valuable manuscripts, etc., which she has the care of.

Miss Cole, librarian at Raton, gave an interesting and helpful talk on the methods and progress of the Raton public library.

Mrs Abreu of Springer, president of the Board of Education of that place and member of the club that established the little library in Springer, showed how closely the library is linked with their school and what splendid results have been obtained by the coöperation of their women.

In conclusion the librarians present gave a brief report of the work done by their libraries and reports were read from those who could not be in attendance.

MRS BLANCHE PARRETT,
Secretary.

Washington—The Puget Sound library club held its first meeting of two sessions on the afternoon and evening of December 28, at the University of Washington, with an attendance of 86. The program for the afternoon consisted of a paper by W. E. Henry, University of Washington library, upon "Nature, scope and personnel of our profession," and an informal presentation of the topic, Library publicity, by Charles H. Compton, reference librarian of the Seattle public library.

The evening program consisted of an extremely interesting address by Professor Dallas Johnson upon The completer socialization of educational institutions, followed by a spirited discussion.

The organization is in some ways

rather unique. It may be fairly characterized as a one-man or rather, usually, a one-woman organization. Its organization is what may well be termed unconstitutional. It has no constitution, no by-laws, no membership, no dues or fees of any kind, no minutes, and no proceedings. Its only officer is a president, and no person may ever serve twice in that office. The program is merely an excuse for coming together and in no sense the end or purpose of congregating.

The program being brief, much time was given to the pleasant pastime of getting acquainted informally. Between sessions the company dined together. A finer spirited audience never assembled than this proved to be, and all concurred in the opinion that it had been a delightful and inspiring meeting.

Miss Zulema Kostomlatsky, head of the circulation department of the Seattle public library, was elected president for the next meeting which will occur some time in the spring at the call of the president.

W. E. HENRY.

Something New

Because there is no proper site for a hangar in the Public library, Architect Litchfield's specifications for window curtains and shades for the stack room will be revised before a contract is awarded.

When the bidders came to examine the specifications they found they must figure on erecting a scaffold 150 feet high to hang curtains before the stack room windows. With the scaffold removed only a skilful aviator could make repairs.—*St. Paul, Minnesota, Pioneer Press.*

Interesting Things in Print

The Nebraska library association has issued, in pamphlet form, an exposition of the desirability of coördination in state supported library activities in Lincoln.

The *Bulletin* of the Indiana State library for December, 1916, contains a list of Indiana newspapers in the State li-

brary, Indianapolis public library, the library of Indiana university and in the Library of Congress.

The Cossitt library of Memphis, Tennessee, has issued several lists of books that ought to be popular. Books for business men, Books for mechanics, Little Women lists, etc.

"The Rambler's club in Panama" (Penn publishing Company) brings together some quite interesting pictures of the country of the uncertain caliber, though there may be room for doubt as to the ability of any set of boys to have done as many daring things successfully as the rambler's did right away.

The Regina *Municipal News* in its annual number devotes eight pages out of its 44 to the Public library of the town. Illustrations, exterior and interior, of the main library and its branches, a historical review and a list of books and periodicals make up an interesting story.

"Government finance in the United States" by Carl C. Plehn *on the National social science series*, describes what the various governments from federal down to municipal, require for support, where the money comes from and what the people get for it.

"Property and society" by A. A. Bruce of the Supreme Court of North Dakota, is issued in the *National social science series*. Judge Bruce presents the brief that the welfare of the nation is based upon its humblest citizens, that property was made for man and not man for property and that obedience to the law by everyone is demanded by the public need.

One of the best publicity campaigns carried on by libraries is that relating to the Birchard library, Freemont, Ohio. Various activities and interesting points about the library are being written weekly and the advantage of the library is kept constantly before the public. The library is fortunate in having as its narrator the gifted Miss Lucy E. Keeler.

The *Bulletin* of the State college at Pullman, Washington, for November, contains a list of references on compul-

ory military training in high schools for the Interscholastic high school debates.

Franklin K. Hopper, head of the order department, New York public library, was married, January 6, to Miss Marion Stephens, New York City.

"Philippine folk tales" by Mabel Cole, tells of the people, customs, manners and the mental makeup of the brown children on the other side of the world. Reading this story of present day conditions, one cannot but feel the impossibility of making the Philippine Islands an integral part of the United States government.

A commendable presentation of the library to the student body is found in a leaflet issued by the library of the Massachusetts agricultural college. The leaflet contains a cordial invitation to use the library, sets out its resources, gives hours of service and directions for using the material. Quotations from eminent persons, living and dead, express their opinion of the use of books.

A bibliography of "Jewish life in the fiction of America and England," prepared by Rebecca Schiender as a graduation requirement, '14, has been issued in pamphlet form by the New York State library school. "It is not a selected list but contains all the material of which the compiler was able to get any trace." It is arranged by the country in which the scene is laid.

A manual of the common invertebrate animals, exclusive of insects, by Henry Sherring Pratt, profusely illustrated, has been issued by McClurg's. The volume of 738 p. descriptive, historical and analytic, would seem to cover the entire family of those animals. A classified list of authors quoted, a glossary of terms and a very full index adds much value to the volume.

"About Harriet" is a story told in the delightful, inimitable fashion of Clara W. Hunt, children's librarian of Brooklyn public library. The story follows the fortunes of Harriet throughout the week. The book proves that Miss Hunt

can tell her own stories as well as those of others, in a most delightful fashion. Illustrations in color by Marginal Wright Enwright add greatly to the delight of the book.

The news that the paper prepared by Sarah B. Askew for the A. L. A. meeting at Minnetonka, 1907, has been published in booklet form by the Wilson Company, will be welcomed by those who heard it. Miss Askew's well known weaving of wit and wisdom in her public utterances will lead those who have heard her, to possess a copy of "The place, the man and the book," for 10 cents.

The Municipal Record, issued by the city commissioners of Salt Lake City, December 15, 1916, was largely devoted to an illustrated article on the public library facilities of the city. The main building has recently had a \$30,000 addition. Plans for a west side branch have been adopted and the scope of the library work has been largely extended, thanks to an unexpected enlargement of the appropriation last year and the progressive spirit of the librarian, Miss Sprague, and the Library Board.

Katherine B. Judson, one of the busy librarians who has found time for writing, gives another interesting book on the Pacific Northwest under the title of "Early days in Oregon." While much of the romance of the story of the settlement of that north land is told in a most interesting fashion, there is also a summary given of the real history of the old Oregon country from original documents. The bibliography and index add to the value and pleasure of the little volume. Here is a book of adventure suitable for the boy who likes that sort of story.

A pocket edition of a handy volume of automobile welding with oxyacetylene flame has been issued by the Norman W. Hendley Publishing Company. The purpose according to the preface is to show how to weld properly those parts that should be welded, and as well, to point out those parts which should not be

welded. The book is prepared by M. Keith Dunham, and is fully illustrated with charts and plans.

"Our field and forest trees" by Maude Going whose other well-known books on plant life have been well received, is no less desirable. In view of the present wild rush of forest destruction and the great need of more interest in forest conservation its value is doubled. The material of the book has been compiled from the author's own personal knowledge and experiences, supplemented by the coöperation of the United States forest service and the Forest laboratory of Canada. The story is full of interesting information that can but make for a greater appreciation of trees and at the same time it is a story and has a continuing interest. The illustrations are specially good.

A most interesting and instructive paper on Illinois state parks by Theodore Jessop, read before the Chicago literary club, April, 1916, has been issued in pamphlet form by the club. Every library in the state of Illinois ought to have a copy of this paper and see that it is made known to the business clubs, the woman's clubs and every vital organization in their community. Under a recent state law any county can acquire land for park purposes. Libraries, especially, ought to be active in stimulating interest in the subject of more state parks for Illinois. Mr Jessop, 6044 Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, will be glad to give any further information along this line to any club or library desiring it.

"American debate" by Dr Marion M. Miller of Princeton university has been treated so far in two volumes. Vol. 1 is the "Discussions in governmental proceedings and assemblies on colonial, state and national rights, 1761-1861." This is the history of American politics with critical digests of the leading debates in the various political and economic controversies of the United States of the period included.

"The land of slavery, 1607-1860," deals with that part of American politics re-

lating to slavery from the time of its introduction into America to the beginning of its disintegration which was begun by the Lincoln and Douglas debates, and forms Vol. 2.

The digests of the debates keep to the language of the speakers, most satisfactorily as far as this is possible.

The A. L. A. Publishing Board has recently issued a selected list of Russian books compiled by J. Maude Campbell, as No. 7 in the Foreign book list; an annotated list of recent French literature compiled by Sarah G. Bowerman, A. M. and a Manual for institutional libraries prepared by Carrie E. Scott, published as *Library Handbook, No. 10*. The League of library commission handbook, 1916, has also been issued. All of these will be received with interest by libraries whose work they touch. Scarcely another person in this country is as well prepared to choose books for foreigners as Miss Campbell. Her work in New Jersey and in Massachusetts has been of the most successful kind. Miss Scott's interest in institutional libraries is so well known, as is that of the committee, that special reliance may be placed on this list. Mrs Bowerman has long been a careful student of French literature and one may recommend the list made by her as meeting the needs of library service. The League of Library Commission's handbook brings the library reports of the various states up to date and is valuable common information.

You tell me that there are many unpleasant things troubling you in the place in which you work. If you can answer without betraying a secret, would you mind telling me if you ever knew of velvet being used successfully as a substitute for sandpaper? The unpleasant, the hard, the trying, the temper-testing things are the sandpaper aids that smooth you off, that train you, that fit you to shoulder bigger responsibilities and to resist more trying troubles later on. So be very thankful for the sandpaper. — Thomas Dreier, *University Press, Cambridge*.

Library Schools

Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh

The school was closed for the winter recess from December 16 to January 2.

Alumnae

Mary Banes, '13-14, has resigned as children's librarian in the St. Louis public library to become head of the children's department of the Public library, Birmingham, Ala.

Hannah Carver Ellis, '07-10, formerly branch librarian in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, has been made first assistant of the Tremont branch of the New York public library.

Lura F. Heilman, '11-12, has resigned her position of children's librarian in the New York public library to take a post graduate course at Columbia university.

Margaret Hess, '15-16, was married in Pittsburgh, January, 1917, to William S. Hoffman.

Harriet Marie McClure, '12-13, was married, December, 1916, in Marietta, O., to Carl C. Hoyt.

Ruth T. Miller, '09-11, has been appointed librarian of the Washington Junior high school, Rochester, N. Y.

Annie May Murray, '08-09, has accepted the position of children's librarian in the Epiphany branch of the New York public library.

Marion B. Phillips, '15-16, has become children's librarian of the Alexandria memorial library, Alexandria, Pa.

Ethelwyn Manning, '08-09, has been made head cataloger of the Amherst College library, Amherst, Mass.

Dorothy Rowe, '09-10, was married, November 25, 1916, in Milwaukee, Wis., to Edward Walker Burbank.

Dina Sellaeg, '07-08, was married, April, 1916, in Copenhagen, Denmark, to Henning Haugen-Johansen.

Eleanor Sibley, '15-16, has been made an assistant in the children's department of the Brooklyn public library.

Edna S. Smith, '09-10, has resigned as children's librarian in the Brooklyn public library to become business secretary of the Y. W. C. A., Watertown, N. Y.

Helen M. Sullivan, '15-16, has become substitute assistant in the children's

department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Katherine E. Williams, '10-11, has been appointed children's librarian of the Public library, Chisholm, Minn.

University of Illinois

Most of the faculty of the school attended the various mid-winter library meetings in Chicago, December 28-30, and as usual a large number of alumni and former students of the school were also present.

School work was resumed on Wednesday, January 3, and lectures by Dr Frank P. Hill of the Brooklyn public library, and Mr R. R. Bowker, of the *Library Journal*, opened the term.

Dr Hill gave two lectures, January 4, on the Brooklyn public library and Library finances. Mr Bowker gave a lecture on January 5 and January 6. His first subject was on Library and literary folk of the past, and the second on Book publishing and book selling.

On Friday evening, the faculty of the school gave a dinner in honor of Mr and Mrs Bowker, after which the Library club gave a reception in their honor in the Woman's building.

Dr Charles H. Lincoln of Worcester, Massachusetts, who has during the fall been engaged in the work of the Illinois Historical survey, gave a lecture on December 19, on the the Calendar- ing of manuscripts.

During the week of December 4-9, the Library school held a very successful exhibit of books suitable for Christmas gifts.

Helen Wilkinson, '12-13, has resigned from the staff of the Cincinnati public library, and has accepted the position of librarian of the Flathead County high-school, Kalispell, Mont.

Annebel Fraser, B. L. S., '08, was married on December 20, to Frank E. Leidendeker, at Wellton, Arizona. Mr and Mrs Leidendeker will make their home in Wellton.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Assistant-director.

New York state library

The thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the school was celebrated January 5. Besides the present students and the

faculty, former students resident in the "Capitol district" and several of the department staff who have lectured to the school within the past two years, were present. Several telegrams of greeting were received. A gift of 35 E. D. French book-plates not previously in the school's collection was received from Mr W. S. Biscoe; H. P. Whitlock, State mineralogist, gave an illuminated motto and Mrs Salome Cutler Fairchild sent a candle holder. The program was as follows: Introductory remarks by Mr Wyer; Reading of greetings from the two former directors, Dr Melvil Dewey and Dr E. H. Anderson and from Mrs Fairchild, who served as vice-director from 1887 to 1905; Remarks by Mary Casamajor, president of the New York State Library School association, and by the two class presidents, Rachel A. Harris, '17, and Herman O. Parkinson, '18; Address by Charles A. Richmond, president of Union university. A reception was given to the guests at the close of the exercises. In addition to the speakers, President and Mrs John H. Finley of the University of the State of New York; Mr and Mrs Wyer and Mr and Mrs Walter were in the receiving line. The celebration was in charge of a committee composed of Mary Eastwood of the faculty, Isabella K. Rhodes, representing the alumni and Ruth Wilcox of the senior class.

Christmas gifts of books for the collection of juvenile literature have been received from Caroline M. Hewins, Grace L. Betteridge and Edith Edwards. The collection includes many of the best known.

Vilhelm Slomann, '14, is secretary in charge of the special library department of the Danish Red Cross. Some 300,000 volumes in English, German, French, Hungarian, Russian and other languages have been sent by this department to prisoners of war. His chief assistant is Alfild Smith, '13-'14, who is on leave of absence from the Public library of Trondhjem, Norway. Prince Valdemar of Denmark is the honorary head and Prof Harald Höffding, the eminent Danish psychologist, the active head of the organization.

F. K. WALTER.

New York public library

The juniors have had the following special lectures since the last report was furnished:

December 13. Miss Annie Carroll Moore. Christmas and the children's library.

Following this lecture a visit was made to various children's rooms to see the Christmas decorations, also a visit was made to the children's room in the main building to see the Christmas exhibit of children's books.

January 3 and 4. Arthur L. Bailey. Book-binding processes; Book-binding materials; Economy in book-binding.

In connection with these three lectures the class made a visit to the bindery of the New York public library, where practical demonstration of the various processes was made.

January 10. Edwin H. Anderson. Library administration in its human relations.

Miss Mary Ogden White has begun her course on Foreign fiction with the juniors.

The seniors are having a series of talks on special varieties of library work. The series will include the following lectures:

The work of a manuscript department. V. H. Paltsits.

The care of maps, charts and atlases. Leon Dominian. (American Geographical society).

Cataloging and care of coins, medals, etc. Howland Wood. (American Numismatic society).

The art department of a public library. Frank Weitenkampf.

The formation and care of a picture collection. Miss Emma F. Cragin.

The seniors are also having a series of lectures on Book selection by Miss Bacon, and a series of Reference work by Miss Isadore G. Mudge.

The Christmas party of the school was held on December 20. Stories were read by Mr Root and Miss Sutliff. A beautiful table scarf of unusual Swedish weave, given to the school by Miss Greta Linder, '16, was presented by Miss Sutliff. A "Jack Horner pie" was then opened and each member of the School received appropriate gifts. This formal

program was followed by refreshments and a social hour.

Mr Root represented the school at the annual meeting of the American association of library schools held in Chicago, December 30.

Miss Sutliff gave a reading on Modern poetry to the assistants of the Woodstock branch, and another on Modern American poetry before the Training class of the New York public library.

Wilhelmine N. Austin, a certificate holder of the class of 1914-15, died in New York City, December 16, 1916. Miss Austin was a graduate of the Westover school at Middlebury, Conn., and was in Europe at the outbreak of the European war. She began the work of the senior year, but was obliged to leave because of ill health. Her sunny and vivid personality endeared her to all her associates in the library school and her death is sincerely mourned. This is the first death among the students of the school.

Mrs Enrica Hayden Bowen, '12, was married December 30, to Harry Edward Tunnell. Her residence is at 108 West 80th Street, New York City.

Miss Jessie F. Brainerd, '13, resigned her position as librarian of the New Rochelle public library, January 1. For the present, Miss Brainerd is with the Utica public library.

Mary Ethel Jameson, '14, has resigned her position with the Technology division of the New York public library to accept a position as Technical high-school librarian in the Public library, Minneapolis, Minn.

Marion P. Watson, '14, has resigned her position in the central building of the New York public library to accept a position as assistant in the Columbia University library.

Mabel Cooper, '15, was married to George W. Williams on Wednesday, December 27. Her residence is to be in Centralia, Washington.

Irene E. Smith, '15, has been appointed to a position on the staff of the Public library, Seattle, Wash.

Frances R. Young, '15, has resigned her position in the New York public library to accept a position with the National Retail Credit Association in Atlanta, Ga.

Edna H. Wilder, '16, has resigned from the staff of the New York public library to become branch librarian in the Public library, New Haven, Conn.

Katharyn Burnett, '16, has resigned her position in the New York public library to accept a position with the German Kali Works, 42 Broadway, New York City.

Jannette A. Chapin, '16, is spending the year in her home in Essex Junction, Vt. She is assisting in the local library.

AZARIAH S. ROOT, Principal.

Pratt Institute

Reviews, examinations, and Christmas holidays make up most of the history of the past month. A beautiful Christmas party was held in the classroom before the vacation, where a Christmas tree, Christmas stories, and the singing of carols made us all feel a little less away-from-home. Those who were unable to go home for the holidays were invited by Miss Harriot Hassler, class of 1898, to her house in Flushing, Long Island, to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The new term opened on January 3. That afternoon Miss Clara W. Hunt of the Brooklyn public library gave the first of a series of three lectures on children's work.

The school profited by the meeting of the executive board of the New York State library association held here on Tuesday, January 9, to the extent of having a talk from Miss Adeline B. Zachert on the work of the Rochester public library, and a lecture from Mr Frank K. Walter on educational work in New York state. The students had the pleasure of meeting them both at tea later in the afternoon.

A recent letter from Mrs Adeline Cartwright Bayly, class of 1913, reports that her husband was wounded in April, 1915, and after exciting experiences in England, which included a Zeppelin raid and a visit to Dublin just before the outbreak, they have returned to Canada and have taken up a little farm near Toronto.

Florence A. Adams, '13, has resigned the librarianship of the Brooklyn Polytechnic preparatory school to take the position of librarian in the law firm of Cravath and Henderson, New York City. Miss Lillias P. Nichols, '16, has been appointed to serve out Miss Florence Adams' term as librarian of the Polytechnic.

Estelle M. Campbell, '14, of the cataloging staff of Columbia University library, has been put in charge of the files of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company of New York.

Miss Estelle L. Liebmman, '16, has

given up the position of cataloger at the Geographical Society library of New York to take charge of the files of the Goldwin Picture Corporation of New York City.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-Director.

Simmons college

After the Christmas recess, the rest of the first term sped very swiftly to the season of Mid year examinations, January 25-February 3.

The monthly visit for January was one of great interest, to the Widener library of Harvard university.

The Director represented the Library school at the Chicago meeting of the Association of American library schools on December 30.

The second term of the year starts the Sophomore class, who up to this time have been almost entirely engaged in purely academic subjects, on their study of cataloging and classification.

The major part of the classification course is devoted to the Decimal system, but Miss Sargent of the Medford public library introduces the students to the Cutter system, which that library uses, and this year the third great American classification will be fitly presented, as Mr Charles Martel, of the Library of Congress, is to be the special lecturer on the subject.

Miss Jordan will give the course on children's work as usual, and will also give two lectures on the "Coöperation of the public library and the high school" in the elective offered on the High School library.

In connection with this course we are fortunate in being able to secure the loan of the fine exhibit which was shown at the Washington Irving high school at the N. E. A. meeting last summer.

The course on the History of libraries will be given this year by Miss Donnelly.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,
Director.

Syracuse university

On Thursday evening, December 14, Prof Carter, Prof Bradford and In-

structors Cushman, Bailey and Sine of the English department, assisted by students from the library school, read Beulah Marie Dix's play, "Across the border." The audience consisted of the students in the library school, members of the library staff and some invited guests. The presentation of the play was excellent. After the reading was concluded, refreshments were served and the evening spent in social enjoyment.

Prof Edgar C. Morris, head of the department of English, died early on Christmas morning. His death was wholly unexpected and deprives the university of one of its most valuable servants. The library school deploras his loss, for his goodwill and assistance contributed materially toward strengthening its curriculum.

Lucile R. Scull, '16, is an assistant in the New York public library system.

Addie Duprey, '16, has recently taken a position in the Brooklyn public library.

Alma Jones, '16, has been made assistant librarian at Endicott, N. Y.

Lucile Wilson, '16, is assistant in the periodical room of the Syracuse public library.

Jessie Tupper, '10, has lately been appointed to a position in the Reynolds library, Rochester, N. Y.

E. E. SPERRY,
Director.

University of Washington

The fifth year of the school opened on September 11, 1916, showing a large increase in enrollment. The senior class is composed of 13 members, five of whom are graduate students, eight, seniors in the University. The junior class is composed of 23 members, all juniors in the University.

The seniors' practice work is divided between the Seattle public library and the various departments of the University of Washington library.

Former graduates of the school met on the evening of November 1, in the library school lecture room and formed the Alumni Association of the University of Washington library school. Definite plans were discussed and made for the

future. The following officers were chosen: Louise Smith, '13, president; Elizabeth Kirkwood, '13, vice-president; Eleanor Stephens, '14, secretary; Edith Hile, '15, treasurer; and Mabel Ashley, '14, editor.

Alumni notes

Eleanor Stephens, '14, has resigned as assistant in the Seattle public library to become librarian of the North Yakima public library.

Lydia McCutchen, '13, is librarian of the Extension division of the University of Washington.

Mrs Kate Dallam Gregory, '13, is in the catalog department of the Public library, Portland, Oregon.

Ellen Howe, '15, who has been associated with the Teachers department of the Seattle public library, is this year enrolled at the Carnegie library school of Pittsburgh.

Agnes Johnson, '13, has resigned as librarian of the Georgetown branch of the Seattle public library, to accept the appointment as librarian of the Hoquiam public library.

Louise Smith, '13, formerly librarian of the Lincoln Park high school of Tacoma, is now holding a similar position in the Lincoln high school of Seattle.

Jessie Ballard, '13, has resigned as librarian of the North Yakima public library, and will be married in the near future.

Minnie K. Brown, '14, is cataloger of the Yreka County library, California.

Mrs Harriet Carstensen, '15, is cataloger of the Whitman College library, at Walla Walla, Washington.

John Richards, '16, is librarian of the Public library, Marshfield, Oregon.

W. E. HENRY, Director.

Western Reserve university

The course in Loan systems given by Miss Howe was completed December 20, and the assignment for the Loan practice in the Cleveland public library, which runs parallel with it, was finished at that time. The course in Trade bibliography began January 5.

The director introduced the course in Library work with children by a his-

torical survey of the subject on January 9, and the following day, Miss Caroline Burnite, director of children's work in the Cleveland public library, gave the first two lectures on Children's library work, illustrated by lantern slides; her second lecture was on "Principles of administration of children's rooms." These lectures are preliminary to the course given for two weeks, with two periods daily, by Mrs Edna Lyman Scott, on "Literature for children."

The students had the pleasure of hearing Mrs Gudren Thorne-Thomsen, December 15, on "Poetry for children," when she spoke before the Children's training class of the Cleveland public library.

While in the city attending the Executive Board meeting of the Ohio library association, Miss Laura Smith, head of the Catalog-Reference department of the Cincinnati public library, spoke to the class upon practical adjustments necessary for library school graduates in going into first positions. The following day, J. Howard Dice, organizer for the State library commission, told of the work of library extension and organization in Ohio.

The faculty of Western Reserve library school was represented at the meetings of the A. L. A. council and the Association of American library schools, in Chicago during the holidays, by the Dean, the Director, Miss Eastman and Miss Howe. The latter discussed the topic of Instruction in periodicals at the Library school meeting.

The class entertained at a very delightful Christmas party just before the holiday vacation. One of the features of the evening was a play called "A Cubist morality play," written by Mabel M. Rieley, a member of the class; the cast of characters represented The Sage, Library Spirit, Learning, Untidiness, Accuracy, Cheerfulness, Tardiness, Executive Ability, Tact, Speed.

Rose L. Eichenbaum, '11, has become assistant in the Tremont branch, Public library, New York City.

Florence L. Cottrell, '14, has resigned her

position as school librarian in the Public library, Mason City, Iowa, to become first assistant in the Alliance branch, Cleveland public library.

Else M. Horr, '10, is taking a second year of training for nurses at the Johns Hopkins university.

ALICE S. TYLER, Director.

University of Wisconsin

Work was resumed on January 3. A number of guests from the east have visited the school, Mr and Mrs R. R. Bowker, Dr F. P. Hill, and Mr John Foster Carr. Mr Bowker spoke twice to the school, first on Library reminiscences and again on the Beginnings of the library profession. A dinner was given in honor of Mr and Mrs Bowker. Again the company was treated to more library reminiscences from Mr Bowker and some interesting remarks from Mrs Bowker, Dean Birge, W. M. Smith, M. S. Dudgeon and others.

Dr Hill's lectures on library administration covered the relations of the librarian and the other members of the staff, the principles of library architecture, and the relations between the library and civic institutions. The lectures were given just before the students left for field practice.

"Immigration and education" as presented by Mr Carr gave the students a new view of library endeavor and contact. Three lectures have been given by Professor Campbell from the University, on Book selection, Foreign fiction and the Minor poets. In connection with the lectures on publicity, Professor Bleyer invited the class to the School of journalism to hear his lecture on newspaper publicity. Miss Bernice Oehler, head of the art department of the Madison high school, lectured on the art of making posters.

The class of 1917 has appointed the following officers: President, Hazel E. Armstrong; vice-president, Charlotte H. Clark; secretary, Harriet T. Root; treasurer, Jessie P. Jenks.

Another of the student bibliographies has made its appearance in print. Music in schools and colleges compiled by Vivian G. Little, 1916, is being published in installments in the *Music Supervisors' Journal*.

Bertha H. Rogers, '09, was married, Nov.

25, to Dr Ludwig F. Guldner. She will be at home after February 1, at 5 Pasadena Apts., Davenport.

Bettina Jackson, '10, has resigned as assistant in the Study Club department of the Wisconsin library commission and is taking work in interior decoration in the University of Wisconsin.

Emma M. Wald, '10, began work as assistant cataloger, January 1, on the staff of the Public library, Detroit, Mich., resigning her position in the State normal School library, Milwaukee, Wis.

Elizabeth Eckel, '12, is actively engaged in library work after several years at home. She is assistant librarian at the State normal school, Warrensburg, Mo.

Hazel E. Askey, '13, has been acting as substitute since August 1 in the Public library, Long Beach, Cal.

Helen D. Graves, '13, has resigned her position in the catalog and reference departments of the Public library, Cincinnati, O., and will be at home in River Forest, Ill., during the remainder of the winter.

Ethel A. Hedenbergh, '14, has been made librarian of the Sioux City high school.

Glenn P. Turner, '14, has been elected as an assemblyman from Milwaukee on the Socialist ticket.

Henrietta R. Harvie, '16, has received an appointment as part time assistant in the library of the Medical faculty of McGill university, Montreal, and is also taking several courses in the university.

Edna Roesler, '16, has been released from her position in the Platteville normal school to accept one in the Public library of Superior, Wis., her home city.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Preceptor.

In speaking of the needs of Colorado a librarian said:

A summer school is needed for standardization of library work in Colorado; definite statement to students as to the type and status of library instruction at present given in Colorado institutions; calling attention of trustees and educators in general to the need of trained library workers and informing them in regard to library requirements; placing standards of library equipment and service before library workers so they themselves will feel the need of training.

The speaker advised shifting the location of a summer library school occasionally, owing to the great size of Colorado, and recommended that it be held in connection with the state's four general educational institutions.

Indexes and How to Use Them

An index, to the untrained eye, too often means simply an alphabetical list of all subjects treated in the book. When the subject searched for is not found in this alphabetical arrangement the book is closed and the search renewed in other fields, though perhaps that very book did contain the information and perhaps was the only book that did.

To the trained reference worker this alphabetical index has many possibilities and they vary even in different books of the same general class. Sometimes a portrait of a person is listed under his name in the index, but more often all the portraits are listed separately for greater convenience. Illustrations are often treated in this way, particularly in the indexes in bound periodicals. Sometimes in the index to a biography subjects because they concern the same man are listed chronologically under that man's name where it appears in its alphabetical place in the index of subjects. Much valuable information is liable to be overlooked in a superficial scanning of indexes. There are innumerable varieties of indexes and it would make for a distinct gain in efficiency to study them rather carefully. The *Congressional Record* index (current) is an unusual type of index and should be studied by those called upon to use it frequently for work with debaters and others interested in current political problems.

One special feature of this index is the frequent reference "see bill H. R. 17136" or some such reference to a House or Senate bill. These are listed in the back of each index under "Senate Bills," "Senate Resolutions," "House Bills" and "House Resolutions," arranged numerically. A brief statement of the bill is followed by references to discussions in the *Record*. (*Staff News Bulletin*, Cleveland.)

Life is ever unfolding from within, and revealing itself to the light, and thoughts engendered in the heart at last reveal themselves in words, actions and things accomplished.—James Allen.

Department of School Libraries

The Cleveland Survey

The survey report on "The public library and the public schools" is one of the 25 sections of the report of the Educational survey of Cleveland, conducted by the Survey committee of the Cleveland foundation in 1915.

The purpose of the survey was to consider whether or not Cleveland could bring about more effective forms of coöperation between the public library and the public schools. A correct view of it may be had by quoting from the report itself.

The survey was made under seven heads:

1) The inter-dependence of the school and the library.

If the school does not perform its mission the library would have no mission to perform. If the library does not do its work efficiently, the labors of the school will prove to have been largely futile. The youthful citizens are in the schools where they are learning. The main question involved is, "How can the city best get the city's children into the habit of reading the city's books?"

2) The libraries in the elementary schools.

Here the relations between them are summed up as shown in the seven libraries in elementary schools. The survey commends most of the work that has been done, but calls attention to the fact that where the books are given out only before or after school, it results in issuing and receiving the books so rapidly that little attention is possible.

3) Branch libraries. After reviewing the work that is done in the branches, the conclusion is reached that—

seven-tenths of all children reached by the whole library system are cared for by the 26 branch libraries, where the most valuable work is now done through activities that are constructive and vital. It was suggested that the two boards should consider building the branch libraries and the schools together, or close to each other, so that each can carry on its work without duplicating equipment.

4) Classroom and home libraries.

This comes close to the schools, and after

reviewing the various activities of the library along these lines, the work is commended because of the constant effort on the part of the library to help the teachers influence the children to read.

5) High school libraries.

These are conducted on a coöperative basis by the Board of education and the Library board. After reviewing the work that is done in all the high schools in Cleveland, except two commercial high schools, the conclusion is reached that since the high school libraries have largely limited their work to supplying reference material, and encouraging pupils to go to branch libraries for recreation, and some reference reading, it is advised that the high school library try to supply all library needs for as many pupils as possible.

6) Normal school libraries.

It is said that both in the matter of equipment and correlation these are to be ranked high, as in truly interesting prospective teachers in library work it makes them intelligent about it afterwards. A review of the training and actual work is given, concluding that the work done is so efficient that the pupils in the rest of the school system would benefit from a similar close relation of library work and school work.

7) Future development. Under this heading it is stated that the study has led to one major conclusion and several minor ones. The major conclusion which embodies the principal instructions of the report, is that in their relation to each other both schools and libraries should subordinate every other consideration to the single aim of giving each child an invincible love of reading. The aim of the school is to teach the child to read, the aim of the library is to furnish wholesome reading matter. The most important problem is to make the children want to read. Opportunity is not enough. There must be contact, stimulus, encouragement in daily association. The survey recommends that new branches be erected in conjunction with public school buildings.

The Cleveland schools are adopting what is known as the platoon plan, and the survey recommends that the school libraries in each new building on

this plan be set aside permanently a library room, and not in a session room liable to be used for something else at any time and the library have to move out.

The survey strongly recommends that a library be established in each of the new high schools, in what is termed the junior high school rather than the senior, since for the majority the junior high school supplies the final years of schooling. It is hoped, however, that the policy which has established the present high school libraries will be continued and expanded, and that the book collections will include books of inspiration and recreation, as well as those of information.

The report states that the librarians in both the elementary and high schools are exceedingly well equipped and under-paid. The average of training and education is higher than it is among the teachers in the public schools which they serve. The figures indicate that librarians are seriously underpaid as compared with teachers. An illustration of two girls shows that after each one had finished her training and worked for a dozen years the elementary school teacher would have earned \$4,000 since going to work more than her companion, who was a librarian, while the latter would have spent more time getting her education, spent more money getting it, has less chance of promotion and does not enjoy the pension system after her service is completed.

Of the high school librarians, it may be said that they have better professional preparation than the high school teachers, and are paid less than half as well. With these, too, after acquiring their training, the figures show that after a dozen years of service the librarian has spent more years and more money in securing her education, and her aggregate earnings would have amounted to \$9,000, while those of her companion, who had gone into teaching in the same school, would have amounted to \$20,000, in addition to the matter of the pension. Every argu-

ment for the adequate payment of teachers applies with equal force to the adequate payment of librarians. The librarians will not be accepted by the teachers as professional equals if they are compensated on a greatly inferior scale.

The corps of school librarians is becoming more numerous, and the best arrangements for the supervision of the school libraries would be to have the libraries nominated by the library board, and the librarians appointed and paid by the board of education. The cost to the tax payers will be the same, no matter which board pays the expense, or how it may be apportioned between them.

The survey closes by strongly recommending that the salaries of the school librarians be increased so as to be on a level with the teachers doing corresponding work.

News from the Field

East

Mabel Eaton, Simmons, '11-12, is at present at her home, Auburn, Maine.

C. F. D. Belden, state librarian of Massachusetts, has been elected librarian of Boston public library, to succeed H. G. Wadlin.

Miss Josephine S. Heydrick, Pratt, '94, has resigned the librarianship of the Pequot library at Southport, Conn., because of the health of her mother, and has returned to her home in Meadville, Pa., for an indefinite time.

Horace G. Wadlin, for 14 years librarian of the Public library of Boston, has resigned his position to take effect on January 31. Mr Wadlin felt that he desired to be relieved from the routine work in connection with the administration of the library in order to have more time to give to other subjects which interest him. Mr Wadlin was for some years connected with the Massachusetts bureau of statistics. He has the student's frame of mind, and is engaging himself in the larger exercise of investigation and study rather than in the practical affairs which the administration of a large city

library system requires. Mr Wadlin has made many friends among librarians and it is to be hoped that these will be permitted to retain friendly relations even though he leave the library world.

Central Atlantic

Katharine J. Middleton, Simmons, '12-15, has returned to the Public Affairs Information Service, White Plains, N. Y.

Grace B. MacCartney, Rochester, '09, Pratt, '11, has been appointed head of the cataloging department, Public library, Rochester, New York. She has been in charge of book orders and binding there during past years. Miss MacCartney had been for several years previously in the book order department of Columbia university.

Guernsey memorial library at Norwich, N. Y., has issued its report, July, 1915, to July, 1916. It shows a year of consistent work not only in its small city field but in the rural districts, its book service having reached out to hamlets 18 miles away and into 39 rural school houses. There are 13,252 v. on its shelves; recorded circulation, 43,251 v. and 336 new card issues, making the total issue 4,236. At the last census the population of Norwich was 8,345. Emphasis was placed upon every red letter day in the literary world, local and national movements were coöperated with, the holidays, the seasons and their activities and the vocations of its readers severally received particular attention. N. Louise Ruckteshler is librarian.

The report of the New York State library for 1915 records the number of volumes in the library, 409,982; pamphlets, 1,500. There are 78,700 v. in the traveling libraries. Additions to the library, 109,133 v.; of these, 16,880 were by purchase; 17,047 were periodicals received. The library exchanges with 1,388 institutions. General library circulation, 33,369 v., library for the blind, 8,603 v. There are 1,612 traveling libraries through which 62,610 v. were circulated. The salary for 122 employees was \$111,504; grants to free public libraries, \$37,560; grants to school libra-

ries, \$106,027; personal visits to libraries, 253; libraries reporting, 625; circulation reported, 26,003,009 by 5,330,826 v.

Central

Harriette E. Sessions, Pratt, '10, has been appointed librarian of the high school at Davenport, Iowa.

Millie M. Smith, for sometime connected with the Public library of Cincinnati, has been appointed librarian of Toledo university, Toledo, Ohio.

John Gilpin Pyle, author of the Life of James J. Hill, has been appointed librarian of the James J. Hill reference library at St Paul.

Miss Kitty W. Sherwood has returned to the Public library of Cincinnati. Some years ago Miss Sherwood was connected with the business office of that library.

Alice Charlton, Simmons, '12, has been appointed librarian in the offices of the Minneapolis Board of Education.

Louise Thompson, special '13-14, has received an appointment in the Public library, Detroit, Mich.

The marriage of Anne Belle Fraser to Frank K. Leidendeker of Wellton, Ariz., is announced. Miss Fraser was formerly librarian of the Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago.

Earl H. Davis, N. Y. State, '15-'16, has resigned his position with the North Dakota State library commission as legislative reference librarian to succeed Andrew L. Bostwick as municipal reference librarian at the St. Louis public library.

A. D. Keator, of Carlton college, Northfield, Minnesota, has been elected president of the Minnesota library association by the Executive committee. Miss Newhard of Virginia, Minnesota, resigned the office on account of her expected absence from the state.

In making up the budget of the Cleveland public library for 1917, the Library Board added \$30,000 to the appropriation for salaries and revised the entire salary schedule, re-grading the staff according to the new schedule. Beginning

salaries are increased 25 percent by this new schedule.

Eliza Gordon Browning for 25 years librarian of Indianapolis public library and connected with its service for many years previously, has offered her resignation. Under Miss Browning's charge the library has developed from a few thousand volumes to a system of a main library, 12 branch libraries, 60 school stations with 150 depository libraries in 150 factories, stores and other institutions. She wishes at the completion of the new building to be relieved from the responsibility of the future development of the library in order to more freely enjoy the fruits of her early sowing.

Grace Shellenberger has been appointed supervising librarian of State institutions in Iowa to take the place of Miss Eliza Townsend, recently resigned to be married.

Mary B. Lindsay, after 22 years of arduous labor in the Public library of Evanston, Illinois, has resigned on account of ill-health. Miss Lindsay went from Peoria public library to the New York State library school, Albany, and after her course she went to Evanston. She has been a faithful and hardworking member of the Illinois library association since it was founded in 1896.

The death of Miss Lindsay occurred on January 25.

Mr C. J. Barr, for 14 years connected with the John Crerar library of Chicago, will become assistant librarian of Yale university, April 1.

Mr Barr graduated from the University of Michigan and took the library course at Albany, New York. He was in the Library of Congress for a short time and then became reference librarian at the John Crerar library. When Mr Hopkins left he was made assistant librarian and has been a valuable member of the Crerar staff ever since. He was elected president of the Illinois library association twice, has been president of Chicago library club and a member of important committees in both organizations.

South

Edith O'Brien has been appointed to the cataloging department, Public library, Birmingham, Alabama.

Jessica G. Cone, N. Y. State, '98, who spent the first six months of 1916 as assistant in the Goodwyn Institute library, Memphis, Tenn., returned in December for a similar engagement.

Helen V. Stelle, Pratt, '13, reference librarian of the Public library at Superior, Wisconsin, has been made librarian of the Carnegie library at Tampa, Florida.

Leila Kemmerer, B. L. S., N. Y. State, '16, resigned her position as first assistant in the Goodwyn Institute library, Memphis, Tenn., to join the staff of the National Museum library at Washington as temporary cataloger.

Mary Baines has been appointed head of the children's department of the Public library, Birmingham, Alabama. Miss Baines graduated from De Pauw university, '13, Carnegie library school, '14, and has been children's librarian in St. Louis public library since.

The city of Macon, Georgia, received a New Year's gift from Mrs Helen Washington Bellamy in the shape of a building site valued at \$20,000 and \$50,000 with which to erect a public library building. The city has appropriated \$5,000 annual maintenance fund, in appreciation of the gift.

West

Marie Pinny has been appointed children's librarian of the Public library of Boise, Idaho.

Mabel Wilkinson has been appointed librarian of Platte county public library, Wheatland, Wyoming.

Mrs A. B. Longstaff of Huron, has been appointed a member of the State library commission of South Dakota.

Lena R. Fenton has resigned as librarian of Platte, Wyoming, and has accepted a position in the Public library of Boulder, Colorado.

Geneva Cook, for sometime assistant librarian of the Public library of Bozeman, Montana, has been appointed head